# THE HERALDRY AND VEXILLOLOGY OF THE FLYING ARI FEDERATION

날아라 병아리 연방의 문장학과 기학

PHAM DO GIA HUY
팜 도 지아 휘

# FOREWORD AND PREFACE

***To the esteemed readers, the dedicated global fandom, and most importantly, to the inspiring members of 'Flying Ari',***

My name is ***Pham Do Gia Huy*** (born on May 4th, 2006), and I am currently embarking on my academic journey as a second-year student of the **fifty-eighth** intake, at the ***Faculty of Korean Language and Culture, University of Languages and International Studies*** (ULIS-VNU), one of the leading prestigious institutions for language and regional studies in Vietnam.

My lifelong dedication to the arcane worlds of ***heraldry*** (the study of coats of arms) and ***vexillology*** (the study of flags) did not begin within the scholarly walls of university lecture halls. Instead, it was sparked during my early **middle school** years. What started as a child's simple, quiet fascination with the vibrant colors, geometric symmetries, and historical narratives woven into world flags soon blossomed into an enduring passion. For me, flags and coats of arms have never been mere graphic designs; they are the visual souls of nations, communities, and individuals—capturing centuries of history, struggle, values, and triumphs within a single, unified frame.

However, during my high school years (***Class of 2021-2024*** in ***Ha Nam Province, Vietnam***), my creative endeavors had to be reluctantly put on hold. Admitted into the highly competitive elite English program, my daily life became entirely consumed by rigorous academic pursuits.

I was chosen to represent my school in the prestigious ***Regional Academic Olympiads*** (the highly selective ***Provincial Excellent Student Competition*** in English)—a fierce competition reserved only for the top-tier academic minds of the region. I was honored to achieve the Third Prize in this high-stakes Olympiad for two consecutive years in Grades 10 and 11. Subsequently, in 2023, I successfully obtained a CEFR ***C1*** proficiency level through the ***International English Language Testing System*** (IELTS) with an overall Band 7.0—a standard indicating advanced, near-native professional command and communicative mastery.

While these academic milestones were rewarding, the sheer weight of preparation, high-pressure examinations, and the repetitive nature of personal projects gradually took a toll on my creative spirit. My artistic spark quietly faded, and I ultimately chose to step away from the world of design, leaving my vexillological sketchbooks to gather dust as I transitioned into university life.

It was not until I immersed myself in my university studies that this long-dormant passion unexpectedly, and rather fiercely, revived. The change of environment and the fresh perspective of Korean studies reignited the creative flames within me.

This current handbook represents the second major milestone in my journey as a designer of modern heraldry. My first grand endeavor was born on December 24, 2025, when I designed a custom flag and coat of arms for ***Vu Linh Dan*** (born 2007)—the exceptionally talented former *Universe Ticket 2023* contestant and Runner-up of ***The Voice Kids Vietnam Season 7***—celebrated just days after she officially debuted her highly anticipated EP (extended play) 'Sống trong tình yêu' (***Living in Love***) on December 18, 2025. That project proved to me that the ancient, noble language of heraldry could be seamlessly bridged with modern artistic identities and contemporary pop culture.

Soon after, when the ground-breaking survival show *Flying Ari* (***날아라 병아리***) officially concluded, I was deeply moved by the journey of the contestants. I felt a profound urge to create a dedicated, artistic tribute to support the eldest member, ***Nguyen Khanh Linh***, who stands as a beacon of pride for Tuyen Quang, Vietnam. Originally, this creative endeavor was intended solely as a singular, standalone flag for her. However, as I began to look closer at the rest of the lineup, analyzing the unique personal trajectories, diverse backgrounds, and distinct talents of the other eight members, a much grander, far more ambitious vision began to crystallize in my mind: the **'Federal Concept.'**

In political theory, a ***federation*** (or ***federal state***) is defined as a sovereign union of partially self-governing, autonomous provinces, states, or regions unified under a central federal authority. In a true federation, each constituent state retains its unique cultural identity, local historical heritage, and regional flags, yet they all share a common destiny and stand proud under one single, overarching sovereign banner.

Applying this profound philosophy to ***Flying Ari***, I realized that a group of exceptionally diverse individuals coming together to form a single musical entity is the perfect artistic equivalent of a federation. Each member does not merely represent a performer; they represent an autonomous "member state" within a magnificent creative union. From the bustling, cutting-edge modern metropolis of Seoul, to the historic, ancient soil of Gim-hae, and across the vibrant maritime borders to Japan, each member brings their own unique "regional sovereignty"—their birthplace, their childhood dreams, their specialized artistic training, and their personal milestones.

Therefore, in this handbook, you will not find generic pop-art graphics. Instead, you will discover a curated system of ***heraldic state flags*** and ***coats of arms***. The symbols and colors chosen for each member's emblem serve as sophisticated visual metaphors of their individual trajectories, personal heritages, and artistic strengths—much like the sacred historical seals of sovereign territories, preserved with the utmost respect and dignity. They represent their struggles, their resilience, and their triumphs, elevated through the timeless medium of classical design.

Please keep in mind that this handbook represents only the *first preliminary phase* of this conceptual journey. Since the group has not officially debuted yet, and their official concept and visual identity remain under wraps, these designs are bound to be revised, adapted, and refined as they transition into their official era. Once the group's final debut identity is formally revealed, I will design the ultimate, official ***'federal state'*** flag and coat of arms to represent their final collective unity as a whole.

For now, please accept this preliminary handbook as a profound labor of love, a testament of academic devotion, and an artistic chronicle of nine incredible girls preparing to take flight. I sincerely hope that everyone, especially the esteemed members of Flying Ari and our passionate global fandom, will warmly receive and cherish this humble work.

And finally, from the bottom of my heart, thank you for embarking on this unorthodox journey with me. I am fully aware that building a complete ***geopolitical federation*** and a strict ***heraldic system*** for an idol group is undeniably a bit weird—perhaps even entirely unprecedented in the grand history of K-pop. Yet, with your support, we are carving out a monumental legacy that will be the very first of its kind. Thank you for daring to dream this magnificent, crazy dream alongside me.

***Hanoi, August 12$^{th}$, 2026.***

Author,
Pham Do Gia Huy.

*Official Portrait of the Author.*
*Photographed on December 30th, 2025.*

Chapter I, UNIT 1 - COAT OF ARMS

Hello! I am Bo-Hamster.
I teach Unit 1
about Coats of Arms.
I love heraldry,
but I love sunflower
seeds way more.
Touch my shield
and you get the squeak!

BO-HAMSTER

Chapter I, UNIT 2 - FLAG

Roar! I am Chae-Rex.
I teach Unit 2
about Flags.
I design flags because
my short arms can't
do anything else.
Can someone please
hold this flag for me?!

CHAE-REX

# WARM-UP!

**EXERCISE 1:** Read and tick the following statements below whether you have experienced it or not.

| No. | Statements | Yes | No |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1.** | Have you seen a national flag with an animal on it? | ☐ | ☐ |
| **2.** | Do you know that the Vietnamese flag has a yellow star? | ☐ | ☐ |
| **3.** | Have you ever designed a logo or a flag for fun? | ☐ | ☐ |
| **4.** | Do you know that a coat of arms is shaped like a shield? | ☐ | ☐ |
| **5.** | Have you seen the United Nations flag (blue and white)? | ☐ | ☐ |
| **6.** | Did you know some flags are not rectangular (like Nepal)? | ☐ | ☐ |
| **7.** | Have you worn a sports jersey with a team logo on the chest? | ☐ | ☐ |
| **8.** | Do you think every country must have a national flag? | ☐ | ☐ |
| **9.** | Have you ever noticed the logo on your school uniform? | ☐ | ☐ |
| **10.** | Do you know that old families historically had coats of arms? | ☐ | ☐ |

**EXERCISE 2:** Answer the two following multiple-choice questions.

**11.** What shape is most common for flags?
- **A.** Triangle
- **B.** Circle
- **C.** Rectangle
- **D.** Star

**12.** Where is a sports crest usually placed?
- **A.** Left chest
- **B.** Sleeve
- **C.** Back
- **D.** Collar

**13.** Which color is **NOT** on the Olympic rings?
- **A.** Red
- **B.** Pink
- **C.** Blue
- **D.** Yellow

**14.** What is the study of flags officially called?
- **A.** Biology
- **B.** History
- **C.** Geography
- **D.** Vexillology

# CHAPTER I.
# THE FOUNDATIONS

## CHAPTER OBJECTIVES:

1. Define the core concepts and historical origins of both ***Heraldry*** and ***Vexillology.***

2. Identify the anatomical parts of a classic coat of arms and a standard flag.

3. Analyze how colors and geometric symbols convey deep meanings.

# UNIT 1: COATS OF ARMS

## COMPREHENSIVE QUESTIONS

**1.** Why was Bo-Hamster shocked and angry when he saw the kid's family shield drawing?

2. What are the rules of heraldry that Bo-Hamster mentioned in the comic?

3. If you were to design your **own** coat of arms, what object or symbol would you choose instead of a banana, and why?

# Ⅰ VOCABULARY & DEFINITION

## 1) VOCABULARY

**Instruction:** Carefully read, memorize, and practice the 20 essential heraldry vocabulary words below. Write them down in your study notebook!

| No. | English | Korean | Vietnamese |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1.** | Coat of Arms | 문장 | Gia huy (Huy hiệu) |
| **2.** | Heraldry | 문장학 | Huy hiệu học |
| **3.** | Shield | 방패 | Khiên (Tấm khiên) |
| **4.** | Crest | 문장의 장식 | Mào huy hiệu |
| **5.** | Motto | 좌우명 (표어) | Khẩu hiệu (Tiêu ngữ) |
| **6.** | Escutcheon | 방패형 문장 | Khiên huy hiệu |
| **7.** | Tincture | 문장의 색 | Màu sắc huy hiệu |
| **8.** | Charge | 문장의 문양 | Họa tiết trên khiên |
| **9.** | Supporter | 지지물 | Linh vật đỡ khiên |
| **10.** | Blazon | 문장 기술 | Thuật tả huy hiệu |
| **11.** | Or (Gold) | 금색 | Màu vàng kim |
| **12.** | Argent (Silver) | 은색 | Màu bạc |
| **13.** | Gules (Red) | 적색 | Màu đỏ |
| **14.** | Azure (Blue) | 청색 | Màu xanh lam |
| **15.** | Vert (Green) | 녹색 | Màu xanh lá |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **16.** | Sable (Black) | 흑색 | Màu đen |
| **17.** | Purpure (Purple) | 자색 | Màu tím |
| **18.** | Dexter | 우측 | Phía bên phải (khiên) |
| **19.** | Sinister | 좌측 | Phía bên trái (khiên) |
| **20.** | Ordinary | 기본 문양 | Khối hình học trên khiên |

**ATTENTION:** Please do **NOT** confuse the Vietnamese translation of 'Coat of Arms' (Gia huy) with the handsome author of this book, ***Pham Do Gia Huy*** (팜 도 지아 휘).

Although both represent family honor and look majestic, only one of them will grade your textbook homework!

## 2) DEFINITION OF THE COAT OF ARMS

A **coat of arms** is a unique visual design displayed on an **escutcheon** (shield), **surcoat,** or **tabard**. Historically used by **medieval knights** to identify themselves on the chaotic battlefield, it served as a personal and family logo. Today, these beautiful designs represent **families, universities, cities,** and **sovereign nations.**

The central element is always the **shield**. However, one cannot simply paint any random drawing on it. Heraldry follows **strict, scientific** rules. For instance, the '**Rule of Tinctures**' dictates that you cannot place **metal on metal** (like gold on silver) or **color on color** (like blue on red), ensuring the design remains **highly visible** from a long distance.

**Figure 1.1**: *A classic heraldic achievement showing a shield, helmet, crest, and supporters.*

Beyond the shield, a complete coat of arms (known as an **achievement**) includes several external ornaments. On top sits a helmet decorated with **mantling** and a unique **crest**. At the bottom, a ribbon scrolls out to display a **family** or **national motto**. Majestic creatures called supporters often stand on both sides to guard the shield.

Even though modern society no longer wears heavy iron armor into battle, heraldry remains the ancient ancestor of modern graphic design. The crest of your favorite **football club, your school emblem,** and **even the logos of modern pop groups** all directly inherit their design principles from these medieval traditions. Understanding this connection proves that a truly iconic logo is never just a random doodle; it is a carefully calculated **visual language**. Therefore, before we can craft the ultimate symbols, we must first master the sacred rules.

## 3) THE GREATER VS. LESSER COAT OF ARMS

In real-world applications, classical heraldry is highly **adaptable.** While a complete, formal achievement—known as a ***'Greater Coat of Arms'***—includes all complex external ornaments like **supporters, helmets, mantling,** and **scrolls**, not every situation demands such grand scale. This practical need historically led to simplified versions, most notably the ***'Lesser Coat of Arms.'***

This simplification is particularly **crucial** in modern creative fields such as the **music** and **entertainment industry**. Pop bands, entertainment agencies, and modern brands often require highly versatile, stylized, and sometimes unorthodox symbols. For these fast-paced platforms, the "Lesser Coat of Arms"—which often strips away external elements to focus purely on the shield and its central charge—becomes the ultimate branding tool.

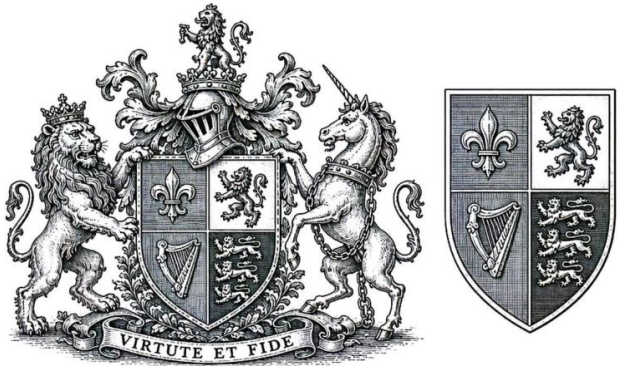



**Figure 1.2**: *A side-by-side comparison of a detailed Greater Coat of Arms (left) and a simplified Lesser Coat of Arms (right).*

However, simplifying a design does **not** mean **losing its soul**. Even a lesser coat of arms must strictly preserve the essential **postures, core meanings,** and **symbolic geometry** of the original entity. Whether representing an **individual** or a **collective group**, the chosen simplified symbol must still maintain its **structural dignity** and convey the exact same character as its grander counterpart.

Ultimately, a greater coat of arms tells a **grand, multi-layered** story of history and alliance, whereas a lesser version distills that same story into a single, punchy, and memorable visual icon. Knowing how to scale down from a royal crest to a modern, sleek emblem is the true secret of **contemporary heraldic design.**

## 4) THE APPLICATION OF THE LESSER COAT OF ARMS IN OUR MODERN ERA

If a Greater Coat of Arms—with two giant lions, a golden royal helmet, a flying banner, and a hundred tiny leaves—is put into an **Instagram profile picture**, what happens? It becomes a **blurry, messy dot**! In our modern world, we look at things mostly through small screens. We need designs that are **clear** and **readable** in the blink of an eye. This is the first reason why the Lesser Coat of Arms is so popular today. It gently removes the heavy decorations and keeps only the absolute most important part: the **shield**.

The second reason is all about **time** and **memory**. In the **fast-moving** entertainment and music industry, fans and audiences do **not** have ten minutes to stand and **analyze** every single **hidden historical meaning** of a complex logo. You only have about **three** seconds to catch their attention. A simplified Lesser Coat of Arms is exactly like the **catchy chorus of a hit pop song**: it **hooks** you instantly, stays in your brain, and you can easily draw it in your notebook. When fans love an artist, they want a symbol they can

**easily recreate, share,** and **wear with pride**. A bold, clean symbol on a shield creates a **stronger community** feeling than a **crowded painting** that nobody can redraw.

Now, let us think about the practical side of being a fan: the **merchandise**! Imagine you are a designer trying to print a complex, royal logo on a small K-pop **photocard**, or engrave it on a plastic **light-stick**. Printing a Greater Coat of Arms is a nightmare for the factory. The tiny lines will disappear, the colors will **bleed** into each other, and it will just look like a **strange ink stain**. On the other hand, a Lesser Coat of Arms is a **superhero of adaptability**. It looks **magnificent** on a massive stadium screen, and it still looks crisp and perfect when stamped on a **tiny pin badge** or a **concert ticket**. It saves time, saves money, and looks much cooler.

But wait, does **removing** the lions, the crown, and the ribbons make the coat of arms less special? Absolutely **not**! Think of it like **taking off a heavy winter coat to show your stylish outfit underneath**. The Lesser Coat of Arms forces designers to focus entirely on the '**soul'** of the person or the group. If the main symbol is a **brave eagle** or a **cute hamster**, that animal becomes the absolute **star** of the shield. The posture of the animal, the core colors, and the true spirit of the owner are fully **protected** and **highlighted**.

Therefore, choosing a Lesser Coat of Arms is **not** breaking the rules of heraldry; it is upgrading them for the **modern era**. We still respect the **ancient traditions** of making shields, but we adapt them so they can survive in the digital age. It allows a historical concept to **live** perfectly inside a modern **music video**, a **fandom space**, or a **fashion item**. It is the **perfect bridge** connecting the classic past and the creative present.

***(That is the end of Section I.)***

# II ADDITIONAL READING MATERIALS

## 1) THE HISTORICAL ORIGIN OF COATS OF ARMS

Ever wondered why coats of arms were created in the first place? To understand this, we must travel back in time to the battlefields of **medieval Europe**, specifically around the **12th century**. During this era, warfare and chivalric **tournaments** were experiencing a massive technological shift. Blacksmiths began forging heavier, more **protective suits** of armor for knights. Most importantly, they invented the **'great helm'**—a massive, **cylindrical** iron helmet that completely covered a knight's face, leaving only a narrow slit for the eyes.

While this heavy armor was fantastic for surviving **sword strikes**, it created a hilarious and deadly problem: **nobody knew who was who!** On a dusty, chaotic battlefield, with thousands of men shouting and swinging weapons, a knight completely wrapped in steel looked exactly like his enemy. Imagine accidentally attacking your **own king** or **best friend** just because you could not see his face!

To solve this dangerous crisis of **'friendly fire'**, knights began painting bold, bright **geometric shapes** and fierce **animal symbols** on their large wooden shields. They chose **contrasting colors**—like bright red, gold, or royal blue—so they could be easily recognized from a long distance.

Furthermore, shining iron armor would become dangerously **hot** under the blazing sun. To keep cool and prevent their armor from **rusting** in the rain, knights wore a long cloth **garment** over their metal suits. They began sewing or painting their personal shield symbols directly onto this fabric. Because this painted cloth was literally a '**coat**' worn over their '**arms**' (armor and weapons), the famous term **'Coat of Arms'** was born!

But who had the very first official coat of arms? According to historical records, the first clearly documented coat of arms belonged to Geoffrey V, the Count of Anjou. In the year 1127, King Henry I of England **knighted** Geoffrey and gifted him a magnificent blue shield decorated with golden lions. This beautiful shield became a permanent **family symbol**, proving that what started as a simple military life-hack quickly evolved into a sacred art of family pride and nobility.

## 2) THE COMICAL TALE OF THE SWEDISH HERALDIC LION

What happens when **classical art** meets **real-world reality** in the most disastrous way? To find out, we must look at the legendary story of the **Lion of *Gripsholm* Castle**, also known as Sweden's most famous historical meme. In the **18th century**, European monarchs loved collecting **exotic wild animals** to show off their **power** and **wealth**. So, in the year **1731**, King **Frederick I** (the **First**) of Sweden was absolutely **thrilled** when the **Bey of Algiers** sent him a **magnificent, living lion** as a royal gift. It was one

of the very first lions ever seen in **Scandinavia**, and it lived in the **royal hunting grounds** as a beloved wonder.

Sadly, like all living things, the royal lion eventually **passed away**. King Frederick, wanting to **preserve** his majestic symbol of courage and royalty, decided to have the beast **stuffed and mounted**. However, there was a major **delay**, and by the time the project actually started, several years had passed. All that remained of the once-glorious beast was a **dry pelt** and a heavy bag of **loose bones**. The king sent these remains to a local **taxidermist**, giving him the grand task of rebuilding the king of beasts.

This was where the disaster began. The poor taxidermist had a massive problem: he had **never** seen a live lion in his entire life! In the 18th century, there was **no Google Images** or **Wikipedia** to help him search for what a lion actually looked like. He was left staring at a flat, empty piece of skin and a pile of bones, completely **clueless**. Desperate to finish his royal job, the taxidermist decided to look for inspiration in the only place he could find it: the **royal coats of arms** painted on the castle walls.

He reasoned that since the royal coat of arms represented the **king**, the painted lions on the shields must be exactly what real lions looked like. So, he tried to stretch and stuff the physical, **three-dimensional** (**3D**) skin to look like a flat, **two-dimensional** heraldic drawing! When he was finally finished, the result was a **hilarious monstrosity**. He gave the beast a completely flat, **cartoonish** face with **googly** eyes set way too close together, a curved pink tongue **poking out**, and a bizarre row of human-like **wooden teeth**.

From the side, the stuffed lion looked somewhat **ferocious**. But from the front, it looked like a shocked, **lopsided** cartoon cat that had just stepped on a sharp object! Today, this taxidermy disaster is still proudly displayed at ***Gripsholm Castle*** in Sweden, where it **elicits** amused laughter from visitors from all over the world.

## 3) THE CHICKEN IN PANTS

If you thought the Swedish Lion was a historical disaster, wait until you learn about the concept of ***'canting arms'***.

In heraldry, canting arms are basically visual puns—a visual dad joke where the symbols drawn on the shield sound exactly like the **name of the owner**, regardless of whether it actually makes any logical sense. And the absolute undisputed king of heraldic comedy belongs to a tiny village in the Netherlands called Hensbroek.

To understand this absolute masterpiece of a shield, we have to look at the history of the town. Back in 1312, the village was simply recorded as "***Hensbroec***". In old Dutch, this essentially meant "***the swampy, marshy land belonging to a guy named Hein***". It was a completely normal, rather boring geographical name.

However, languages change over the centuries, and the spelling eventually evolved into "***Hensbroek***". Here is where the hilarious misunderstanding happened: in modern Dutch, the word "***hens***" literally

translates to "hen" (as in, a ***female chicken***), and the word "***broek***" translates directly to "pants" or "trousers".

So, when the local officials decided to design an official coat of arms for the village (whose origins date back to the 15th century and was officially granted in 1817), the heraldic designers completely ignored the historical fact that it was just a muddy swamp owned by some guy named ***Hein***. Instead, they took the town's name completely literally. The official blazon of **Hensbroek** proudly features a majestic silver chicken, standing powerfully on a red shield, wearing a perfectly tailored **pair of golden trousers**!

Yes, you read that correctly. A chicken wearing pants.

But the medieval designers did not stop there. If we travel down to the French city of ***Sète***, we find another completely unhinged canting arm. In French, the word "***grenade***" translates to both the pomegranate fruit **AND** a literal explosive weapon. Meanwhile, the old spelling of the city, "***Cette***", sounded exactly like "***cetus***", which is Latin for whale. The result of this linguistic coincidence? Their official municipal coat of arms literally depicts a giant black whale furiously spitting lit, flaming explosive grenades out of its blowhole!

These legendary, ridiculous shields prove a very important point about vexillology and heraldry. Not every single coat of arms has to be a majestic lion, a terrifying dragon, or an elegant ***fleur-de-lis***. Sometimes, heraldry is just a group of medieval scribes giggling at their desks, deciding to permanently immortalize a chicken wearing trousers onto their official government documents.

***(That is the end of Section II.)***

Ahem, ahem! Attention, please! It is Bo-Hamster here, and I have a story that will make your tail wiggle with laughter.

The other day, I was waddling down the street, minding my own business and looking for some high-quality sunflower seeds. Suddenly, I overheard two dramatic K-pop fans arguing loudly on the sidewalk. They were holding shiny photocards of their favorite groups and pointing at the logos as if they were discussing national military secrets. Naturally, as a professional, I had to stop and listen.

- Look at this! This is a real, authentic, medieval royal coat of arms! Our group is literally royalty!

- Are you blind? That is just a regular logo. It is literally just a circle with some letters. Where are the majestic lions? Where are the shields?

- No, you do not understand! See those two tiny squiggly lines next to the letter 'X'? Those are clearly invisible, spiritual supporters guarding the sacred shield of our fandom!

- Invisible supporters? Those are just design scratches! You are hallucinating because you stayed up all night streaming music videos!

HAHAHA! I almost choked on my sunflower seed right then and there! Oh, the sheer, beautiful comedy of modern fandom!

Look, as much as I love K-pop enthusiasm, let us be completely honest. Many modern groups love to play with heraldry to make themselves look rich, noble, and deeply conceptual. But let's be real—most of them are just using highly simplified "lesser coats of arms" or, more accurately, just fancy logos. And to be even more honest, some of their designs are... well, heraldically incorrect to the point of being a complete disaster!

For instance, I have seen group logos that try to float a royal crown three meters above a shield like a UFO. I have seen "shields" that look more like geometric pizza slices than medieval armor. And don't get me started on the Rule of Tinctures! They put dark blue letters on a black background, and then the fans have to squint their eyes just to read their group's name. It is not heraldry; it is an eye exam!

So, next time your friend tells you their favorite K-pop group has a "royal medieval crest", just smile, give them a sunflower seed, and tell them to read Unit 1 of this book. Until then... HAHAHA! Keep hallucinating those invisible lions!

## III EXERCISES

### 1)

When studying heraldry, most people imagine **golden lions** or **silver unicorns**. However, if you look at the national coat of arms of **Iceland**, you will find something straight out of an epic **fantasy novel**. Instead of standard supporters holding the shield, Iceland has four massive mythical guardians known as the ***Landvættir.***

According to the ancient Norse saga ***Heimskringla***, the King of Denmark, **Harald Bluetooth**, once planned to invade Iceland. Before attacking, he sent a dark wizard in the form of a whale to scout the island's shores. However, as the wizard approached the coast, he was terrified by what he saw. The island was protected by four colossal nature spirits. In the northwest, the wizard was chased away by a furious bull named **Griðungur**. When he swam to the northeast, a gigantic eagle named **Gammur** swooped down from the sky, followed by a flock of aggressive birds. In the southeast, a terrifying fire-breathing dragon, **Dreki**, crawled out of the volcanic landscape alongside poisonous serpents. Finally, in the southwest, the wizard was confronted by a towering rock-giant named **Bergrisi**, whose head reached higher than the mountains.

Terrified by these supernatural protectors, the wizard fled back to Denmark, and the king immediately **canceled** his invasion. Today, these four legendary creatures proudly stand on the Icelandic coat of arms, surrounding a blue and white shield with a red cross. They do not just represent mythical folklore; they symbolize the raw, volcanic, and icy power of Iceland's geography. The people respected these spirits so much that, according to old **Viking laws**, no ship was allowed to approach the coast with a grimacing dragon-head on its bow, just to avoid provoking the ***Landvættir***.

This proves that a coat of arms is not always about ***royal families***; sometimes, it is about magical beasts defending a kingdom of ***ice*** and ***fire***!

**Instruction**: Read the passage above. For each statement below, tick the correct box in either the ***True*** **(✓)** or ***False*** **(X)** column.

| No. | Statements | True (✓) | False (X) |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1.** | Iceland's coat of arms features two golden lions as its supporters. | ☐ | ☐ |
| **2.** | The four mythical guardians of Iceland are collectively called the Landvættir. | ☐ | ☐ |
| **3.** | The Danish King successfully invaded Iceland with the help of a dark wizard. | ☐ | ☐ |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **4.** | A giant eagle named Gammur protects the northeastern part of Iceland. | ☐ | ☐ |
| **5.** | The rock-giant Bergrisi defended the island from the southeast coast. | ☐ | ☐ |
| **6.** | The wizard sent by the King transformed into a dragon to scout the island. | ☐ | ☐ |
| **7.** | The four guardians represent the raw power of Iceland's nature and geography. | ☐ | ☐ |
| **8.** | The central shield of Iceland's coat of arms contains a red cross. | ☐ | ☐ |
| **9.** | Viking ships were legally required to have dragon-heads when approaching Iceland. | ☐ | ☐ |
| **10.** | A coat of arms can represent mythical folklore and nature, not just royalty. | ☐ | ☐ |

## 2)

If you think modern pop stars get angry when someone wears the same outfit on the red carpet, wait until you hear about **medieval knights**. In 1385, during a military campaign in Scotland, an English knight named Sir ***Richard Scrope*** was horrified to see another knight, Sir ***Robert Grosvenor***, wearing his exact coat of arms: a blue shield with a **diagonal** golden stripe (heraldically known as ***'Azure, a bend Or'***).

Instead of politely asking Grosvenor to change his armor, Scrope did what any rational, heavily armed adult would do: he **took him to court.** This sparked one of the most famous and ridiculous legal battles in medieval history, known as the ***'Scrope vs. Grosvenor'*** controversy. This bizarre lawsuit lasted for **five** agonizing years. It became the 14th-century equivalent of a **reality TV drama**. They dragged hundreds of witnesses into the ***Court of Chivalry***, including the famous poet ***Geoffrey Chaucer*** and ***King Richard II***, simply to testify about whose ancestors wore the blue and gold shield first.

Finally, the court ruled in favor of **Scrope**. The judge told Grosvenor that he could keep the design, but he had to add a **plain silver border** to differentiate it. Grosvenor was so deeply insulted by this **'downgrade'** that he stubbornly appealed directly to the King. The King, annoyed by the endless drama, gave a final verdict: he completely stripped Grosvenor of the blue shield design and forced him to adopt a completely new one featuring a **golden wheatsheaf**. In the end, a **five-year legal war** over accidentally matching outfits ended with one knight losing his entire aesthetic!

**Instruction**: Read the passage above. For each statement below, tick the correct box in either the ***True*** **(✓)** or ***False*** **(X)** column.

| No. | Statements | True (✓) | False (X) |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1.** | The lawsuit started because Sir Richard Scrope and Sir Robert Grosvenor wore identical armor to a royal banquet in England. | ☐ | ☐ |
| **2.** | The legal dispute over the 'Azure, a bend Or' shield lasted for exactly half a decade. | ☐ | ☐ |
| **3.** | Geoffrey Chaucer was summoned to the Court of Chivalry to provide expert testimony on the artistic rules of drawing a shield. | ☐ | ☐ |
| **4.** | The initial court ruling stated that Grosvenor had to completely surrender his blue shield design to Scrope. | ☐ | ☐ |
| **5.** | Grosvenor's direct appeal to the King resulted in a more favorable and prestigious coat of arms for his family. | ☐ | ☐ |
| **6.** | The phrase 'Azure, a bend Or' translates to a blue shield with a diagonal golden stripe. | ☐ | ☐ |
| **7.** | The conflict was essentially a lengthy legal battle triggered by two knights accidentally having matching outfits on a military campaign. | ☐ | ☐ |

## 3)

Has K-pop ever successfully used a real, **historically accurate** coat of arms? Or is it just a pretty illusion that completely fails the **rules of heraldry**? If you are a fan of K-pop, you know that agencies absolutely love the **'royal concept'**.

The grandest, most literal example in recent memory is the boy group ***The KingDom*** (formerly known as ***KINGDOM*** before their 2024 rebrand). When they debuted in early 2021 with their 'History of Kingdom' album series, their entire brand was built around medieval monarchs. Naturally, they released highly detailed, majestic crests and shield logos to match this epic lore. Before them, groups like ***EXO***, ***Dreamcatcher***, and ***ATEEZ*** also heavily flirted with royal shields and flags.

At first glance, these logos look incredibly majestic. They have the shields, the crowns, and the mythical animals. However, as an aspiring heraldic designer, I have to be brutally honest: heraldically speaking, K-pop's attempt at coats of arms is basically a disaster!

Why? Because they are not designing coats of arms; they are designing corporate logos disguised as medieval shields. True heraldry relies on strict scientific principles, especially the **Rule of Tincture**—meaning you cannot put metal on metal or color on color. K-pop designers ignore this completely. They will happily slap dark purple letters onto a black background or use shiny 3D **neon gradients** that would give a 14th-century knight a severe headache. Also, a true coat of arms must be **recognizable from a distance.**

In contrast, K-pop crests are often so crowded with tiny aesthetic details and hidden lore symbols that when you shrink them down to print on a photocard, they just look like a blurry ink smudge.

So, does true heraldry exist in K-pop? Sadly, **no.** The strict classical rules are completely dead in the entertainment industry. But honestly? **That is okay!** They use a heavily stylized approach because their ultimate goal is not to survive a medieval war, but to survive the **fierce competition of album sales**. They trade historical accuracy for absolute visual impact. And as a fan, even I must admit: those **illegal, rule-breaking** K-pop shields look pretty cool on a concert banner.

***Pham Do Gia Huy***

**TASK 1**: Complete the sentences below. A ***partial hint*** is provided.

| No. | Statements | Answer |
|---|---|---|
| **1.** | The boy group that debuted in 2021 with a literal medieval monarch concept is called The _____. | |
| **2.** | When K-pop designers put dark colors on a black background, they are completely ignoring the heraldic Rule of _____. | |

**TASK 2**: Answer the following questions using **NO MORE THAN *TWO (2)* WORDS** from the passage.

| No. | Questions | Answer |
|---|---|---|
| **1.** | What is the ultimate goal of K-pop logo designs, instead of surviving a medieval war? | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **2.** | What do overly detailed K-pop crests look like when they are printed on small merchandise like photocards? | |

***(That is the end of Unit 1.)***

# THE GENESIS

Before we move forward to Unit 2, I want to sit down and talk to you not as a strict heraldry teacher, but simply as a fanboy sitting in his room at 2 AM, surrounded by endless sketches, erasers, and half-empty coffee cups.

To be completely honest with you, I do not just design coats of arms for **anyone**. It is a highly exhausting, brain-draining process. You have to calculate the geometry, balance the tinctures, and somehow make it look majestically royal. The very first person who ever received a custom heraldic design from me was not a **medieval king**, nor a European **duke**. It was a fiercely talented girl named **Vu Linh Đan**. As I briefly mentioned in the foreword, creating her personal emblem was the exact spark that ignited this whole crazy federation project.

At first, I experimented with a traditional **Lithuanian motif** for her, trying to keep it extremely classic. But then, my creative brain took a wild turn. I ended up designing a motif that, if Dan looks at it too quickly without paying attention, she might completely misunderstand and think, "Wait a minute, is this author calling me **Don Quixote**?"

Why? Because the central charge of her coat of arms features a prominent, classic European windmill alongside a young lady riding a majestic horse. I know, I know—it sounds exactly like the famous crazy Spanish knight charging at windmills! But I promise there is a deep, emotional lore behind it. The windmill is actually a direct, heartfelt tribute to her dedicated fandom, who lovingly call themselves **'Cối xay gió nghe Vũ Linh Đan hát'** (or in English, 'The Windmills listening to Vu Linh Dan sing'). It was my way of immortalizing the sweet bond between her and her fans into a permanent historical crest.

However, there is a tragic, almost comical irony to this story. Both Linh Dan and I live right here in the bustling city of Hanoi. We are practically breathing the exact **same city air**, probably stuck in the same terrible traffic jams. Yet, up to this very moment, I still have **not** been able to successfully deliver this grand design to her hands. It is the classic, heartbreaking tale of being geographically so close, yet feeling **galaxies apart**. It is right there, but **out of reach**. One day, hopefully, that windmill shield will find its **rightful owner**.

But my creative hunger did not stop there. The moment the reality show ***'Flying Ari'*** concluded, a new, intense wave of inspiration hit my desk. And that brings me to the **second** person who ever earned a spot on my exclusive heraldic drawing board: the **towering eldest sister** of the group, **Nguyen Khanh Linh**. Unlike the sweet windmill story, her emblem was a completely different beast to tackle. Why did I choose her? Firstly, as a proud Vietnamese myself, I felt a deep, fiery urge to represent my own people on the global stage. Khanh Linh is a beacon of pride for **Tuyen Quang**, and she needed a symbol that reflected that magnitude.

Furthermore, we have to face reality: 'Flying Ari' was simply a **one-time pre-debut reality show**, and it has already officially concluded. You cannot just slap a literal baby chick on a majestic, **permanent post-debut** coat of arms! The girls are transitioning into their **official** era, which means they desperately need a conceptual upgrade.

But here is where the absolute nightmare of designing for Nguyen Khanh Linh began. To create a personal standard, you need **personal traits**. The problem? This girl has practically **no concrete** favorite things! She does not even have a **definitive** favorite color. Even if you dig deep into her behind-the-scenes secrets, there is **nothing**! Oh, she was born on **Valentine's Day**? Great! But let us be serious for a second: no respected heraldic knight has ever charged into a battlefield carrying a shield covered in **cheesy Valentine's chocolate hearts** and **Cupid arrows**. It is a heraldic crime!

Left with absolutely zero colorful inspiration, I just closed my eyes and randomly selected a deeply authoritative shade: the specific navy blue used in the flags of British **Governors** and **Governors-General**. Why? Because I simply had no other choice! I needed something that screamed 'Eldest Sister' and 'Leader'.

However, looking at it now, I must admit that this strict, serious Governor-General blue does not perfectly match her actual vibe. Yes, she is the **towering, long-legged** eldest sister, but the moment she smiles, those incredibly soft **'baby dimples'** appear. Her ultimate role model is Jennie. And let us be brutally honest here: Jennie is turning thirty this year, but has she ever successfully escaped the cute '**Nini**' or squishy '**Jendeukie**' allegations? Absolutely **not!** Khanh Linh is walking that exact same path. She is supposed to be this fierce, intimidating leader, but in reality, she is just a giant baby.

At this point, you might be screaming at the book: "If she is Vietnamese, why not just use **Red**?" Oh, my dear readers, this is where the political comedy comes in. We are operating in the South Korean entertainment industry! If I design a predominantly, aggressively red personal flag for her, we might accidentally trigger the South Korean **National Security Act**! Because of that terrifying, eight-decade-old law, a random red flag might get her deported before she even gets to debut!

Of course, the official red and yellow star of the Vietnamese national flag is perfectly legal and respected in Korea, but a custom red flag for an idol? Too suspicious. We are trying to make a K-pop hit, not start a **political revolution**!

So, navigating through this chaotic maze of having **no favorite colors**, avoiding **cheesy romantic symbols**, and dodging national security laws, I eventually had to rely on something else entirely to build her identity, her absolute roots: her **homeland**, Tuyen Quang, and her Vietnamese heritage. Since I could not use a full red background, I packed the shield itself with undeniable Vietnamese pride: ***the resilient bamboo, the historic river*** flowing through the mountains***, the sacred pink lotus*** sitting on top as the ***crest,*** and a ***single red star*** shining brightly. To top it off, I added the beautiful Latin motto ***'PER ASPERA AD ASTRA'*** (Through hardships to the stars), perfectly capturing her arduous journey through the survival show. I will not spoil the full anatomical breakdown here—you will have to wait for Chapter II for that!

However, the real comedy of this design was not the heraldry; it was the disastrous delivery process. I officially finished this majestic masterpiece on May 27th, and by May 30th, I had penned a glorious, six-page **'royal decree'** of a letter to her. Feeling like a sophisticated medieval scholar, I tried sending her a neat, professional Google Drive link... Mission failed. I sent the link again. Failed again. The digital walls of K-pop security (or perhaps just her tech-savviness) completely blocked my academic efforts.

After days of frustrating struggles, it was already early June. Defeated, I had to abandon all my scholarly dignity and resort to the most chaotic, Gen-Z method possible: **spamming the actual images directly into her TikTok comment section!**

And miraculously, it worked! The ***'Giant Baby'*** finally saw the comments and successfully saved all six pages of my royal letter. Imagine spending hours calculating the geometric rules of an ancient European coat of arms, only to deliver the final royal decree through a TikTok comment section. Welcome to the modern era of heraldry, folks!

That is enough for now. Turn the page, because the real visual magic of **Chapter II** awaits!

***Written on June 10$^{th}$, 2026*** in ***Hanoi***.

Signed,
Pham Do Gia Huy.

# UNIT 2: FLAGS

1
Almost... finished!
2
3
Crunch, crunch... Smells like fresh crayons.
해바라기씨
4
5
Why is there a sacred snack on a flag?!
해바라기씨
6
I made it for you! It is the official flag of Bo-Hamster!
7
But flags are for countries, not for hamsters who love snacks! This makes no sense!
해바라기씨
8
Actually, flags can represent anything—even a very hungry hamster!
9
Go study Unit 2 now to find out what a flag actually is!
?
UNIT 2 FLAGS
해바라기씨

## COMPREHENSIVE QUESTIONS

1. Why did Chae-Rex choose to study and design flags instead of heavy heraldic shields?

2. What flag was Chae-Rex drawing in the comic strip?

3. According to Chae-Rex, what are the physical advantages of a flag compared to a coat of arms?

# Ⅰ VOCABULARY & DEFINITION

## 1) VOCABULARY

**Instruction:** Carefully read, memorize, and practice the essential vexillology vocabulary words below. Write them down in your study notebook!

**Part 1/2:**

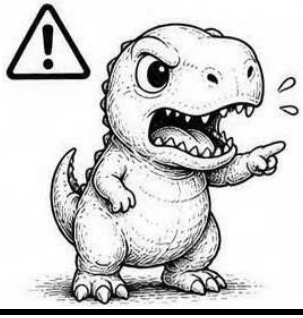
| No. | English | Korean | Vietnamese |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1.** | Vexillology | 기학 | Kỳ học (Nghiên cứu cờ) |
| **2.** | Flag | 깃발 | Lá cờ |
| **3.** | National Flag | 국기 | Quốc kỳ |
| **4.** | Personal Standard | 개인기 / 개인 깃발 | Cờ hiệu cá nhân |
| **5.** | Civil Ensign | 상선기 | Cờ hàng hải dân sự |
| **6.** | State Ensign | 정부기 | Cờ chính phủ / nhà nước |
| **7.** | Naval Ensign | 해군기 | Cờ hải quân |
| **8.** | Jack | 선수기 | Cờ mũi tàu |
| **9.** | Pennant | 삼각기 | Cờ đuôi nheo |
| **10.** | Bunting | 장식용 깃발 | Cờ trang trí |
| **11.** | Field | 바탕 | Nền cờ |
| **12.** | Canton | 깃발의 상단 안쪽 | Góc cờ (thường ở trên cùng bên trái) |
| **13.** | Hoist (n.) | 깃대 측 | Phần cờ sát cột |
| **14.** | Fly (n.) | 깃발의 펄럭이는 부분 | Phần cờ bay trong gió |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **15.** | Obverse | 앞면 | Mặt trước của cờ |
| **16.** | Reverse | 뒷면 | Mặt sau của cờ |
| **17.** | Mast / Flagpole | 깃대 | Cột cờ |
| **18.** | Halyard | 깃줄 | Dây kéo cờ |
| **19.** | Charge | 문양 | Hình tiết / Biểu tượng trên cờ |
| **20.** | Finial | 깃대 머리 | Đỉnh cột cờ |

**Part 2/2:**

| No. | English | Korean | Vietnamese |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1.** | Swallowtail | 제비꼬리 모양 깃발 | Cờ đuôi én |
| **2.** | Guidon | 부대기, 기병창기 | Cờ đuôi én nhỏ (quân đội) |
| **3.** | Burgee | 삼각기 (요트용) | Cờ hiệu du thuyền |
| **4.** | Vexillologist | 기학자 | Nhà nghiên cứu cờ |
| **5.** | Fimbriation | 테두리 (색상 분리) | Đường viền (tách màu) |
| **6.** | Half-mast | 조기 | Cờ rủ (quốc tang) |
| **7.** | Vexilloid | 원시 깃발 | Cờ cổ đại |
| **8.** | Banner | 배너 (기치) | Cờ xí, băng rôn |
| **9.** | Tricolor | 삼색기 | Cờ ba màu |
| **10.** | Bicolor | 이색기 | Cờ hai màu |
| **11.** | Cross | 십자가 모양 | Cờ hình chữ thập |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **12.** | Saltire | X 자형 십자가 | Cờ chữ thập chéo (chữ X) |
| **13.** | Chevron | V 자 모양 | Hình chữ V |
| **14.** | Ratio | 비율 | Tỷ lệ cờ |
| **15.** | Defacement | 문양 추가 | Việc thêm huy hiệu lên cờ |
| **16.** | Standard-bearer | 기수 | Người cầm cờ |
| **17.** | Protocol | 국기 예절 | Nghi thức, lễ tiết treo cờ |
| **18.** | Crest (on flag) | 깃발 위의 문장 | Mào huy hiệu trên cờ |
| **19.** | Semaphore | 수기 신호 | Tín hiệu cờ tay (thường dùng cho hải quân) |
| **20.** | Fringe | 장식술 | Tua rua trang trí cờ |



**ATTENTION:** ***'Defacement'*** in vexillology means adding a badge to a flag, so please do not use it as an excuse to draw funny mustaches on your idol's face on a fan banner! Also, ***'Fringe'*** refers to the golden tassels on a flag, **NOT** your idol's messy hair bangs (fringe) before morning makeup. And finally, please do **NOT** fly your fan flag at ***'Half-mast'*** just because your favorite member forgot the lyrics on stage!

## 2) THE DEFINITION OF A FLAG

***What exactly is a flag?*** At its most basic physical level, a flag is simply a **piece of fabric** (traditionally called **bunting**) with a specific **geometric design**, usually attached by one edge to a **mast** or rope. However, intellectually and emotionally, a flag is the ultimate **visual soul** of a community. It serves as a **symbol**, a **signaling device**, or a **striking decoration** that can be instantly recognized from miles away.

Compared to the **heavy, rigid** world of coats of arms, flags are generally much easier and more **flexible** to design. While classical heraldry locks you into painting complex **lions, helmets,** and **tiny details** on a static shield, vexillology focuses on **bold colors, simple shapes,** and **high visibility**. Furthermore, flags have endless, practical **variants**. You can have a national flag for the **government**, a civil ensign for **merchant ships**, a naval ensign for the **military**, and even a personal standard for an **individual**. It is an adaptable **breathing canvas.**

The easiest way to truly understand how a flag works is to look at the ***national flags*** of different countries. For instance, if we look at the diverse nationalities within the ***'Flying Ari' federation***, we see three incredibly distinct designs representing the **Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Republic of Korea,** and **Japan.** Each of these flags uses completely different colors and **philosophies,** yet they all successfully unite **millions of people** under one piece of cloth.

Ultimately, the greatest power of a flag is that it ***moves***. A coat of arms is **frozen in time** on a piece of paper or a **wooden shield**, but a flag **dances in the wind**. That dynamic movement is exactly why flags bring out such **intense emotions**, whether they are waving majestically at a global sports event or being waved passionately by thousands of fans at a **stadium concert.**

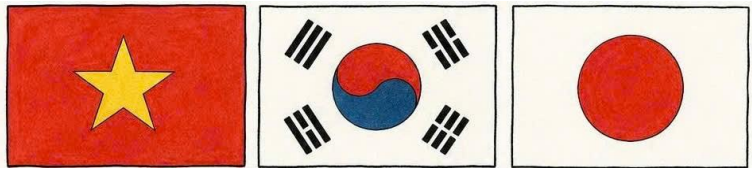


**Figure 2.1**: *The National Flags representing the diverse homelands of the Flying Ari members: Vietnam, the Republic of Korea, and Japan.*

## 3) THE VARIANTS OF FLAGS

Most ordinary people walk through life believing a massive **misconception**: they think a country has exactly ***one*** **official flag**, and that is the end of the story.

**In reality**, a national flag is just a **starting point**. Think of a flag like a person's **wardrobe**. You do not wear a heavy winter coat to sleep, nor do you wear pajamas to a formal red-carpet event. Similarly, nations and organizations create different **'variants'** of their flags depending on who is using them and where they are being flown.

Let us dive into the first and most historically significant variant: The ***Ensigns*** **(Maritime Flags).** Historically, flags were most crucial at **sea**. When you are sailing a ship in the middle of a **foggy ocean**, you desperately need to know if the approaching ship is a friendly **merchant**, a **government official**, or a

**heavily armed navy warship**. To solve this, maritime powers invented different variations of their national flag to be flown strictly on **boats.**

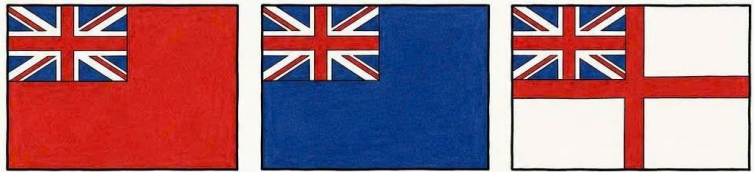


**Figure 2.2**: *The Maritime Ensigns of the United Kingdom.*
*Left: Civil (Red).*
*Middle: Government (Blue).*
*Right: Naval (White).*

The ***United Kingdom*** provides the most legendary example of this system. If you are just a regular **citizen** sailing a fishing boat or a merchant ship, you must fly the ***Red Ensign***. If you are a **government vessel**, like the **coast guard**, you fly the ***Blue Ensign***. And if you are an intimidating, heavily armed **Royal Navy** warship, you raise the ***White Ensign***.

Therefore, if you ever find yourself on a boat and see a ship approaching with the ***White Ensign***, you **better behave**! This brilliant system of color-coding prevents **absolute chaos** on the water. It proves that changing just the background color of a flag completely rewrites its **legal power** and **authority.**

The second major category of variants is the difference between a ***'Civil Flag'*** and a ***'State Flag'*** (or ***State Ensign***). In many countries, the government believes that **regular citizens** and **official state authorities** should ***not*** fly the exact same flag. They want a visual way to say, ***"We are the government, and we have official authority."***

***How do they achieve this?*** By using a technique we learned in the vocabulary section: **Defacement.** They take the plain, simple national flag and ***'deface'*** it by adding the country's official **coat of arms** right in the middle. The plain version is given to the **public** (Civil Flag), while the fancier, shielded version is strictly reserved for **government buildings**, **state officials**, and the **military** (State Flag).

**Figure 2.3:** *The Flags of Germany.*

The ***Federal Republic of Germany*** is a perfect, modern textbook example of this rule. The simple **black, red,** and **gold tricolor** is the **Civil Flag**. You will see it **waving passionately** in the hands of thousands of **football fans** during the **World Cup**. However, the **State Flag**—which features the fierce **federal eagle** (or ***Bundesadler*** in German) on a shield—is legally **restricted**. If a normal citizen flies the eagle flag in their backyard, it is technically an **illegal** use of a government symbol, though authorities usually **tolerate** it during big sports events.

Think of it like ***VIP access*** in the **entertainment industry.** The Civil Flag is the **general admission ticket** that everyone can wave **freely** and **proudly**. The State Flag, heavily decorated with **royal beasts** or **national shields**, is the exclusive ***backstage pass***. It holds **legal weight**, demands strict **protocol**, and represents the absolute authority of the nation's **core institutions.**

But what if a single individual is so important that they get their very own flag? Enter the ***'Personal Standard'***. This is the ultimate **vexillological flex**. A personal standard is a unique flag representing one specific person of high authority, such as a **monarch**, a **president**, or a **governor-general.**

The most fascinating rule about a personal standard is that it acts like a **physical GPS tracker** for the VIP. It is only flown when that specific person is **physically present**. If the President **arrives** at a government building, their standard is immediately **hoisted**. The second they **leave** the building and get into their car, the flag on the building is **lowered**, and tiny versions are attached to the car's **hood**. It is a brilliant, visual way of saying, ***"The boss is currently in the building!"***

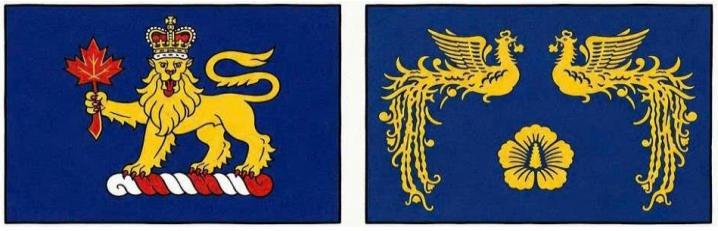


**Figure 2.4:** *Personal Standards.*
***Left:*** *The Governor-General of Canada.*
***Right:*** *The President of the Republic of Korea.*

Looking at the images of Figure 2.4, the Governor-General of Canada's personal standard brilliantly combines **British royal authority** (the crowned golden lion) with **Canadian identity** (the red maple leaf) on a **blue background**. It perfectly represents their role as the **official representative of the British Monarch** in Canada.

On the right, the **Korean Presidential Standard** uses a rich **blue field** adorned with two majestic **golden phoenixes**—an ancient Asian symbol of supreme **virtue** and **royalty**. They are guarding the **Mugunghwa (무궁화)**, the **national flower** of the Republic of Korea. This specific concept of a 'Personal Standard' is exactly the ***'main character energy'*** we are trying to capture when designing personal flags for the individual members of the **Flying Ari Federation!**

## 4) WHAT GOES ON A FLAG AND WHAT DOES NOT?

We now know what flags are and how many official variants exist in the world. But this brings us to the most critical question of this entire chapter: ***What exactly should you put on a flag?*** Vexillology has very **strict, globally accepted** rules regarding **simplicity** and **symbolism.** However, before we look at the official academic rules of what to do, let us look at a hilarious example of what absolutely **NOT** to do, courtesy of **K-pop fandom culture**.

If you have ever attended a massive K-pop **music festival** or a global **arena tour**, you know that fans love bringing **enormous flags** to the ***standing section***. However, instead of bringing actual national flags or official **corporate group logos**, a bizarre and incredibly funny trend has emerged. Fans have started taking real, highly recognizable national flags and superimposing **giant, high-definition photographs** of their favorite idols' ***faces*** directly onto them.

The most legendary example of this trend involves ***Kim Chae-won***, the charismatic leader of the girl group ***LE SSERAFIM***. During their recent tours in the **United States of America**, fans created an absolute **vexillological masterpiece of chaos**. They took the classic **American flag**—with its iconic **fifty** (50) white stars and **thirteen** (13) red and white stripes—and printed a massive, slightly confused, cute picture of Chae-won right in the dead center, covering half of the nation's historical design.

This birthed a viral, hilarious **fandom meme**. Fans at the concerts would literally stand up, place their right hand over their heart in a gesture of ***profound patriotism***, and jokingly declare that they were pledging their **ultimate allegiance** not just to the **United States of America**, but to their '**supreme leader**', Kim Chae-won. It became a symbol of **concert solidarity** and absolute **comedic absurdity.**

Perhaps, in their absolute devotion, they were attempting to unofficially rewrite the sacred national oath itself. You could almost hear them passionately chanting:

***'I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of Chae-won, and to the Fandom for which it stands; one Stage, under the spotlights, indivisible, with perfect choreography and high notes for all.'***

It was the ultimate declaration of **pop-culture loyalty**, proving that K-pop devotion can hilariously conquer even the most serious of national protocols.

But let us analyze this from a strict vexillological perspective. ***Is the "Chae-won American Flag" a good flag design?*** Absolutely **not!** Putting a **hyper-realistic human photograph** on a flag breaks the number one rule of flag design: simplicity. A well-designed flag must be **simple** enough that a child can **draw it from memory**. Nobody can successfully draw Chae-won's perfectly styled **short bob hair** and **cute puppy eyes** from memory using just **crayons**. Furthermore, from a distance, a highly detailed human face **flapping and folding** in the wind just looks like a heavily **distorted, terrifying smudge.**

While the Chae-won flag is an absolute triumph of **fandom comedy** and **concert culture**, it is a complete **vexillological nightmare**. It perfectly demonstrates exactly why traditional flags use simple **geometric symbols** instead of realistic **human portraits**. So, if we cannot put our favorite idol's face on a flag, ***what can we actually put on it?***

Traditional vexillologists will proudly present their basic **handbook of rules**: keep it so simple a child can draw it from memory, use only **two** to **three basic colors**, **no lettering**, and no **complicated seals.** For decades, these conservative rules have been treated like **sacred religious texts** by flag enthusiasts. But let us be completely honest here—these basic rules are strictly for **beginners** or those who simply want a **safe, easy,** and **undeniably boring** design.

In the real world, especially in dynamic **creative industries** or **personal heraldry**, strictly following the **'keep it simple'** rule can be a massive ***trap***. If everyone just designs horizontal tricolor flags to stay safe, ***how do you stand out?*** The rules of flag design are not **rigid prison walls**. They are highly dependent on **shifting cultural contexts**, **historical backgrounds**, and **visual aesthetics.**

This brings us to my ultimate, personal **golden rule** of vexillological design. Forget the dusty academic rulebooks for a moment. Whenever I sit down at my desk to design a **personal standard**—such as the ones carefully crafted for the members of the Flying Ari federation—I always ask myself three fundamental, philosophical questions:

***"Who are you designing for? What exactly are you designing? What is the ultimate purpose of this design?"***

Let us break down this golden formula.

For the first question, **"Who are you designing for?"**. This is about absolute identity. If you are designing for a majestic ancient European nation, you naturally use historical lions and eagles. But if you are designing for a modern, energetic K-pop artist, you must capture their specific vibe, their fandom lore, and their unique personality. You cannot just give a charismatic idol a boring, generic striped flag; they need a distinct visual soul! You must translate their stage presence into geometric shapes and colors.

Then comes the context: **"What are you designing and for what purpose?"**. Are you making a massive, aggressive stadium banner that needs to hype up a roaring crowd? Or are you making an elegant, highly detailed personal standard that will be printed on a tiny fan-merchandise photocard? A flag is not just a piece of cloth; it is a **living, breathing tool**. Its complexity and design choices must perfectly serve its **master's objective**. To design a great flag, you must stop thinking like a **traditional tailor** and start thinking like a **visual storyteller.**

But this leads us to a much grander question: **What if you are not just designing a single flag, but creating an entire vexillological system for a larger "territory" or federation?** Is it necessary to wildly diversify the flags within that specific territory? The answer is an absolute, resounding **yes.** Imagine a fantasy universe, a multinational corporation, or in our specific case, a K-pop idol federation. If every single "state" or member used the exact same flag template, and the only difference was swapping the background color from red to blue to green, it would be a catastrophic design failure. It would look incredibly lazy, like a squad of brightly colored superheroes rather than a rich, historical territory. A true territory consists of distinct regions, each with its own unique history, cultural heritage, and geographical climate.

This is exactly why the **fifty states** of the United States have **completely different flags**, or why the **prefectures** of Japan utilize highly stylized, radically unique geometric ***mon*** (crests). When designing for a collective territory—such as the nine members of the 'Flying Ari' federation—you must ensure that every single **"member state"** has a flag that fiercely represents their **individual lore.** One might need a **royal, aggressive lion**, while another might require a **calm, flowing river** or an adorable hamster holding a sunflower seed.

However, here lies the ultimate vexillological **paradox** for the designer: while these regional flags must be wildly diverse in their central charges and color palettes, they must still look like they **belong** to the **exact same family**. You cannot have one regional flag that looks like a ***15th-century*** holy crusade banner, and another that looks like a **futuristic, cyberpunk tech company logo**. They desperately need a shared visual language, a unifying **artistic framework**, and consistent **anatomical proportions.**

Therefore, diversifying flags within a territory is not just an option; it is an absolute **necessity.** It celebrates **individual identity** and **regional pride** while simultaneously forcing the designer to build a **cohesive, harmonious universe**. It is arguably the ultimate test of any vexillologist: finding the perfect balance between **wild, creative diversity** and **strict, federative unity**.

***(That is the end of Section I.)***

# II ADDITIONAL READING MATERIALS

## 1) THE 'OLYMPIC WARDROBE' MALFUNCTION

What happens when two entire **sovereign nations** accidentally ***steal each other's look?*** Imagine showing up to the biggest, most prestigious sports event on the planet, only to realize your country is wearing the ***exact same outfit*** as someone else.

The year was **1936**. The **Summer Olympics** were being held in **Berlin**. The tiny, wealthy European nation of **Liechtenstein** proudly marched into the Olympic stadium, enthusiastically waving their national flag. At the time, their flag was incredibly simple: a horizontal **bicolor** of blue over red. It was a proud, dignified moment for their athletes.

However, halfway across the stadium, the athletes from the Caribbean nation of Haiti were also marching in. To the absolute horror of both teams, as they looked across the giant field, they realized they were waving the **exact same flag**! Without the internet to check **global flag registries**, both countries had independently designed a blue and red bicolor flag without ever realizing the other existed. It was the ultimate geopolitical ***'wardrobe malfunction'.***

Unlike the heavily armed medieval knights, these two nations did **not** start a massive legal war over the color blue. Instead, it was just deeply, incredibly awkward. For the duration of the Olympic Games, everyone had to squint to figure out which **blue-and-red flag** belonged to the **Caribbean island** and which belonged to the **European mountains**.

The aftermath was swift and hilarious. As soon as the Liechtenstein team packed their bags and went back home, their government basically called an **emergency aesthetic meeting**.

To ensure this embarrassing fashion disaster would never happen on the world stage again, they decided to **modify** their flag. The following year, they permanently added a **bright golden crown** to the top-left corner of the blue stripe. Haiti, on the other hand, eventually started slapping their **national coat of arms** right in the center of theirs. Problem solved, but the memory of the 1936 Olympics remains a legendary comedic tale in the vexillology community.

## 2) THE WEAPONIZED LASER KIWI

If putting a K-pop idol's face on a flag is considered a vexillological nightmare, then letting the ***internet*** design a national flag is a complete **apocalypse**. Let me introduce you to one of the most hilariously disastrous design campaigns in modern history. In **2015**, the government of ***New Zealand*** realized they had a massive branding problem. Their national flag looked almost exactly like **Australia's**

flag. The two countries were constantly being **confused** on the world stage, so the Prime Minister decided it was time for a total rebrand and announced a public referendum to choose a new flag.

This is where they made a ***fatal mistake***. Instead of hiring **professional vexillologists** or top-tier **graphic designers**, the government opened the submission process to the general public. Anyone with an **internet connection** could submit a design. The government innocently expected to receive majestic, elegant designs featuring traditional silver ferns or the iconic Southern Cross star constellation.

Instead, the internet did what the internet does best: it unleashed **absolute, unfiltered chaos**. Among the thousands of bizarre submissions drawn in ***Microsoft Paint***, one design instantly hijacked the entire global conversation. It was a black flag featuring a crude, hand-drawn illustration of a ***kiwi***—the country's cute, flightless national bird. But this kiwi was **not** just standing there. It was aggressively shooting a massive, bright green laser beam directly out of its eyes.

The designer seriously **submitted** the flag under the title ***'Laser Kiwi'***, confidently explaining that the green laser beam represented New Zealand projecting a **powerful** and **deeply intimidating** image to the rest of the world. The global vexillology community completely **lost their minds**. It broke every single rule of aesthetic design, geometry, and dignity. Yet, the internet absolutely **fell in love** with it. It became a viral sensation overnight, with people making **memes**, printing **t-shirts**, and seriously campaigning for the weaponized bird to become the new ***national emblem***.

Ultimately, **common sense prevailed**. The Laser Kiwi did ***not*** win the referendum, and New Zealand actually ended up **keeping their original flag** after all that drama. However, the Laser Kiwi remains a legendary, highly beloved unofficial symbol of the country to this day. It serves as a hilarious, **eternal** warning to every designer out there: ***never, ever*** leave a blank canvas entirely up to public voting, unless you are fully prepared for **laser-shooting animals** to take over your territory.

**Figure 2.5**: *The official New Zealand flag (left) vs. the weaponized 'Laser Kiwi' (right).*

| Option | Votes | |
|---|---|---|
| | Number of votes | Percentage (%) |
| Option 1 (The New Flag) | 921,876 | 43,27 |
| Option 2 (The Current Flag) | 1,208,702 | 56,73 |
| **Total** | **2,130,578** | **100,00** |
| Informal votes | 5,044 | 0,21 |
| Invalid votes | 5,273 | 0,23 |
| Total votes cast | 2,140,895 | 100,00 |
| **Turnout** | **3,158,576** | **67,78** |

**Figure 2.6**: *The final public voting results of the New Zealand Flag Referendum (second round – March 2016).*

## 3) THE MATHEMATICAL NIGHTMARE OF NEPAL

While 99% of the world's national flags are **safe, predictable**, and **perfectly rectangular**, the majestic mountain nation of ***Nepal*** looked at that standard rule and completely rejected it. They boast the only ***non-rectangular*** national flag in the world, consisting of two stacked, **jagged** red triangles bordered in blue. It looks incredibly unique and deeply **historical**, but creating it perfectly is a literal nightmare for designers.

If you look at the constitution of a normal country, the legal description of their flag is usually very simple. It will say something like:

***"The flag shall be a rectangle with a width-to-length ratio of 2:3 (two-to-three), divided into three horizontal stripes of red, white, and blue."***

That is it! Any middle school student with a ruler and some colored pencils can draw it in three minutes. However, the government of Nepal takes their flag geometry so seriously that they did not just write a description; they wrote a traumatic, terrifying advanced mathematics exam!

If you open ***Schedule 1, Article 8*** of the Nepalese **Constitution**, you will not find a simple reference image. Instead, you are immediately hit with a terrifying **24-step** mathematical proof. It reads exactly like an advanced geometry exam, featuring instructions like: ***"From A draw a line AC perpendicular to AB,"*** and ***"With center E and radius ED, draw a portion of a circle."*** It dictates exact algebraic angles, intersecting compass arcs, and square roots just to position the inner symbols. If an amateur graphic designer tries to draw this flag using standard software without following the constitution's math, the proportions will be entirely **illegal**.

But why go through all this exhausting mathematical trouble? ***Why not just use a comfortable, easy-to-draw rectangle like the rest of the planet?*** The answer lies in the profound physical and spiritual geography of the nation. The two stacked, jagged triangles are not just random geometric shapes; they are a direct, visual representation of the towering peaks of the majestic ***Himalayan mountains,*** prominently including ***Mount Everest***. Additionally, the dual triangles symbolize the two major religions of the nation existing in perfect harmony: ***Hinduism*** and ***Buddhism***.

Inside these mountainous triangles, you will find two **celestial bodies**. In the upper triangle sits the ***moon***, which represents the ***cool, calming weather*** of the high Himalayas and the historically peaceful, pure nature of the Nepalese people. In stark contrast, the lower triangle houses a blazing sun with ***twelve*** (12) rays. This represents the ***fierce heat*** of the lower regions of Nepal, as well as the burning, unstoppable resolve of their legendary warriors, the ***Gurkhas***.

When you combine the sun and the moon on a single piece of fabric, it creates an ancient, powerful blessing. The ultimate message of the flag is a declaration of **eternal survival**: the nation of Nepal will proudly exist and stand tall for as long as ***the sun and the moon remain in the sky***.

So, the next time you look at the flag of Nepal, do not just see a weird, jagged shape that breaks the standard rules of vexillology. See it for what it truly is: a **brilliant mathematical masterpiece**, a tribute to the **tallest mountains on Earth**, and a **symbol of a civilization** that simply refuses to fit into a boring, rectangular box.

***(That is the end of Section II. Now turn to page 44 to do the Exercises.)***

## III EXERCISES

### 1)

I never thought I would care about flags until our fandom started talking about **personal emblems**. So yesterday, I decided to design my own flag to hang above my bed in the dorm. I wanted it to look super cool and powerful. I grabbed a **blank piece** of white cloth, a red marker, and tried to draw a fierce, majestic tiger. I proudly spent **two whole hours** coloring it. But when I finally showed it to the younger members, they did not see a tiger at all. Chae-yun pointed at my flag and laughed so hard she literally fell on the floor. She said, 'Why did you draw a ***fat orange cat eating a sausage***?' I was so shocked! I looked closer, and unfortunately, she was right. My majestic tiger looked exactly like a lazy cat.

To make things worse, someone accidentally spilled a cup of iced ***Americano*** on it. Now my 'fierce' flag just looks like a dirty towel. I think I will just leave the flag designing to the professional vexillologists from now on. My artistic skills are definitely a disaster!

**Nguyen Khanh Linh**
**Seoul**

**Task 1**: Read the passage above. For each statement below, tick the correct box in either the ***True*** **(✓)** or ***False*** **(X)** column.

| No. | Statements | True (✓) | False (X) |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1.** | The writer wanted to hang her new flag in the living room. | ☐ | ☐ |
| **2.** | She used a red marker to draw a tiger on a white cloth. | ☐ | ☐ |
| **3.** | The younger members thought the drawing looked very powerful. | ☐ | ☐ |
| **4.** | Chae-yun said the drawing looked like a cat eating a sausage. | ☐ | ☐ |
| **5.** | The flag was completely ruined by a cup of hot green tea. | ☐ | ☐ |

**Task 2:** Complete the sentences below. For each question below, choose ***ONE (1)*** **word only** from the passage for each answer.

| No. | Questions | Answer |
|---|---|---|
| 6. | The writer proudly spent two _____ coloring her flag. | |
| 7. | Her drawing of a fierce tiger actually looked like a lazy _____. | |

## 2)

**Figure 2.7:** *The national flag of* ***Mozambique****.*

When we think of weapons on historical flags, we usually imagine medieval swords, ancient spears, or heavy cannons. However, the African nation of ***Mozambique*** holds a very unique and slightly shocking record in vexillology. It is the only national flag in the entire world to feature a modern assault rifle—specifically, an ***AK-47*** with an attached bayonet.

Why is there a modern gun on a flag? To the people of Mozambique, the AK-47 symbolizes national defense and constant vigilance, reflecting the country's ***armed struggle for independence***. The gun is crossed with a farming hoe, which represents the country's ***agriculture***. Both tools rest over an open book, symbolizing the absolute importance of ***education***. While outsiders might find a modern gun on a flag too aggressive, it is a deeply historical emblem that tells the raw, unfiltered story of the nation's birth.

**Task 1**: Read the passage above. For each statement below, tick the correct box in either the ***True*** **(✓)** or ***False*** **(X)** column.

| No. | Statements | True (✓) | False (X) |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1.** | The flag of Mozambique features an ancient medieval sword. | ☐ | ☐ |
| **2.** | The farming hoe on the flag represents the country's agriculture. | ☐ | ☐ |

**Task 2**: For each question below, circle the ***correct*** answer ***A, B, C,*** or ***D***.

**3.** What specific modern weapon is featured on the flag of Mozambique?

**A.** A shotgun
**B.** A pistol
**C.** An AK-47 assault rifle
**D.** A sniper rifle

**4.** What does the open book on the flag symbolize?

**A.** Magic
**B.** Education
**C.** Religion
**D.** The Constitution

**5.** According to the passage, what does the weapon represent?

**A.** Aggression and anger
**B.** Defense and vigilance
**C.** Hunting and wildlife
**D.** International trade

| YOUR ANSWERS: | | |
|---|---|---|
| **3.** | **4.** | **5.** |

# CHAPTER II.
# THE CONCEPT OF THE FEDERATION

## CHAPTER OBJECTIVES:

1. Understand the core political and artistic structure of our newly founded Federation.

2. Analyze and decode the official vexillological flags representing each autonomous member state.

3. Explore the intricate heraldic coats of arms and the deep personal lore hidden within their majestic shields.

# FOREWORD TO CHAPTER II.

***Dear esteemed readers, passionate fans, and aspiring vexillologists,***

Throughout the heavy, rule-filled pages of the first chapter, you have already met our two adorable, yet chaotic mascots: the grumpy, sunflower-seed-loving ***Bo-Hamster*** and the short-armed, flag-waving ***Chae-Rex***. They were perfect guides for the basics of heraldry and vexillology. However, let us **not** forget that they are just two pieces of a much larger puzzle. There are ***seven*** other incredible sisters waiting in the wings, and the time has finally come to bring all nine of them together under one majestic, unified sky.

Now, you might be looking at the mathematics of a nine-member group and wondering:

***"Does that mean there will be nine completely separate flags and nine individual coats of arms?"***

The answer is a surprising **no**! When you build a true, functional nation, geography, synergy, and strategic alliances matter deeply. Because some members share ***striking personal similarities, identical hometowns,*** or perfectly complementary ***artistic roles***, I could not just isolate them. Instead, I grouped them together into powerful ***regional unions***. I will spoil a little geopolitical secret for you right now: the **Flying Ari Federation** is strategically divided into a 5-2 ratio. This means our universe consists of exactly five autonomous ***'States'*** and two grand ***'Commonwealths'***. Who belongs where, and who shares a flag with whom? You will find out very soon as you turn the pages.

This level of world-building might make some of you, hardcore fans, ask a very valid question:

***"Huy, are you crazy enough to actually write a full, legal Constitution for this fictional K-pop federation?"***

My answer is: **YES, absolutely!** But not right now. Crafting a proper, legally sound constitution requires an exhausting amount of ***historical*** and ***political*** research, which I am currently undertaking behind the scenes. ***Rome was not built in a day, and neither is the Flying Ari Federation.***

If you look at the history of the K-pop industry, creating fictional universes is **not entirely new**. We have all seen massive entertainment companies spend ***millions of dollars*** to create digital realms and virtual nations—like ***SM Entertainment***'s famous ***'Kwangya'*** or the sci-fi digital world of ***'Naevis'***. However, those are corporate, science-fiction illusions managed by giant teams of paid employees. The **Flying Ari Federation** is entirely different. It is a geopolitical reality built from the ground up by one fiercely dedicated fanboy.

This entire concept perfectly reflects my core personality: applying an almost terrifying, academic level of ***seriousness*** to something as joyful and chaotic as idol fandom culture. We are not just designing pretty pop-art logos to print on concert t-shirts. We are building a ***sovereign Republic***. We are establishing territorial borders, weaving political alliances, and forging majestic shields that can stand the test of time.

So, grab your ***'passports'*** and prepare yourselves. It is time to explore the **member states** of the ***Federation***!

Author,
**Pham Do Gia Huy.**

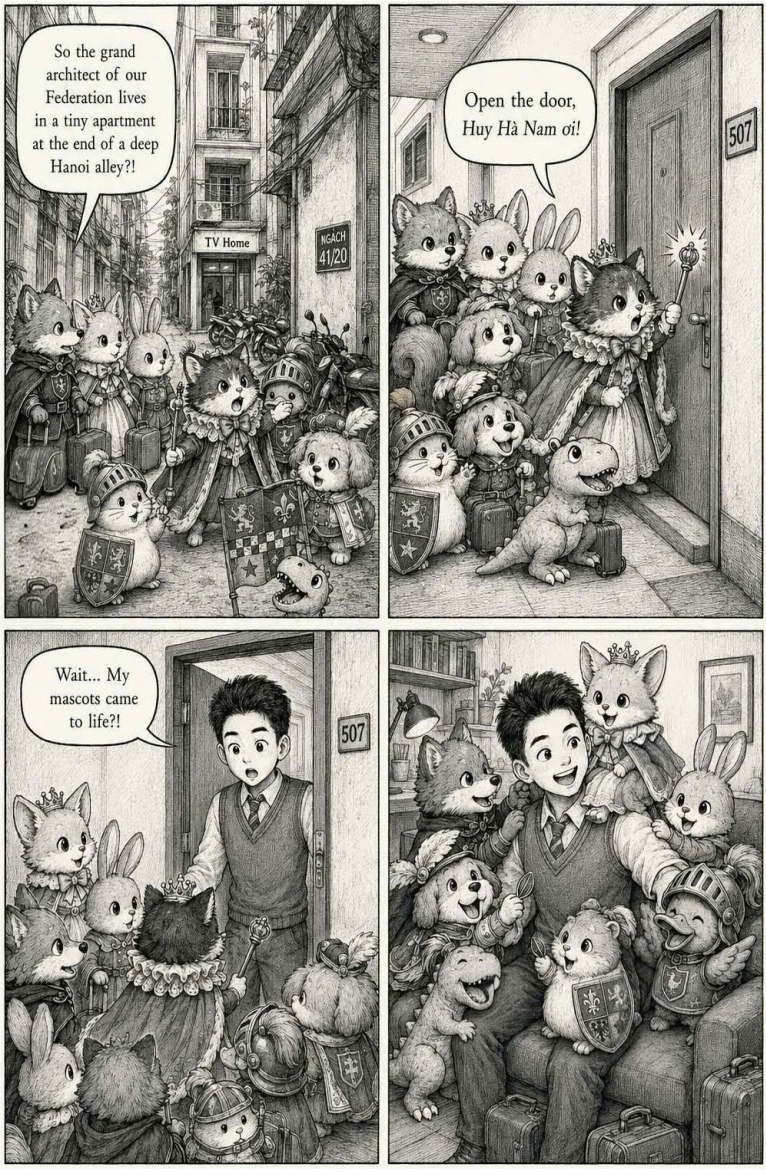
WON-AWOO SEO-YEOU HA-TOKKI

YU-RAMJWI LINH-NYANG MIN-ORI

UAHN-DAENG

Girls, listen! This 'Gia Huy' guy from Hanoi just DM'd my TikTok with a flag. What is a "Federation"?!
?
WON-AWOO
LINH-NYANG
HA-TOKKI
YU-RAMJWI
I only teach Heraldry for the snacks! I have no idea why we are a country now!
?
HERALDRY 101
COAT OF ARMS
BLAZONRY BASICS
VEXILLOLOGY
SUNFLOWER SEEDS
BO-HAMSTER
CHAE-REX
He said we are autonomous states! Does that mean I get to rule my own puppy island?!
To the Flying Ari Federative Republic...
SEO-YEOU
MIN-ORI
UAHN-DAENG
Pack your bags! We are flying to Vietnam to demand answers from this author!

One, two, three...
Wait, there are only eight of us here!
Where is the dinosaur?!
Waahh!
My arms are too short!
I can't zip my suitcase!
Wait for me, sisters!
Packing is too hard for a T-Rex!
Just let me put my stuff
in your bags!
We are supposed to go
rule a majestic Federation,
but we can't even conquer
a zipper...
Does anyone
want a seed?


So the grand architect of our Federation lives in a tiny apartment at the end of a deep Hanoi alley?!
TV Home
NGÁCH 41/20
Open the door, *Huy Hà Nam ơi!*
507
Wait... My mascots came to life?!
507

## 1) THE REASON OF STATE AND UNITY

After reading the silly comic on the previous pages, many of the ***Flying Ari*** members and our passionate global fandom might ask me a very valid and serious question. You might ask,

***"Gia Huy, why on earth did you go through all this exhausting trouble? Why not just draw some cute, generic pop-art logos? Why did you build an entire, complex political Federation for a K-pop group?"***

The answer lies in the **harsh, fast-paced reality** of the entertainment industry. Most idol groups debut with standard, predictable concepts—such as ***'girl crush'***, ***'innocent'***, or ***'futuristic cyberpunk'***. While these aesthetics are visually stunning, they are often temporary and change with the seasons.

I wanted to build something **monumental,** a concept that does not just fade away after one **promotional cycle** but stands tall like an unshakable sovereign state. To achieve this, I applied ***two*** major geopolitical philosophies to our beloved group.

The first philosophy is the ***"Reason of State"*** (historically known in political science as ***Staatsräson***). This is the doctrine that the survival, security, and ultimate goals of a nation are its highest priority, overriding all other minor concerns. Translating this directly to the ***fierce, cutthroat*** battlefield of the K-pop industry, the "Reason of State" for Flying Ari is their ultimate ***survival, success,*** and ***triumph*** as a unified group. Their shared destiny and their collective music career become their ***supreme national interest.***

However, a nation cannot survive purely on ***cold survival instincts***; it desperately needs a beating soul. This brings me to the second core philosophy: the historical concept of ***"Brotherhood and Unity,"*** most famously associated with ***Titoism*** in the former ***Yugoslavia.*** And while I am entirely separating this phrase from its heavy, complex real-world history, the core artistic and emotional message behind it is absolutely perfect for a ***multinational idol group.***

***"How do you successfully unite a tall, bossy cat, a tiny-armed dinosaur, and a hyperactive puppy? How do you unite nine incredibly diverse girls from different backgrounds, hometowns, and specialized artistic trainings?"***

You do not force them to be **identical**. Instead, you celebrate their **wild individual differences** while binding them under a **powerful, overarching sisterhood**. You give them a shared emotional framework where their diversity becomes their greatest absolute **strength**.

If you are wondering who actually coined this intensely heavy political term, we have to travel back in time to the ***Italian Renaissance***. While the core philosophy is heavily associated with the ruthless, cunning political theories of ***Niccolò Machiavelli*** in his famous book ***'The Prince'***, the actual phrase "Reason of State" (or ***Ragion di Stato***) was popularized by the Italian thinker Giovanni Botero in 1589. It was a strict ***survival doctrine*** designed for kings and princes, dictating that the absolute ***health, power,*** and ***continuation of the state*** must come before all other moral or personal concerns.

Now, you are probably holding this book, raising an eyebrow, and thinking:

***"Gia Huy, are you seriously comparing a group of cute, dancing K-pop idols to ruthless 16th-century Renaissance politicians?"***

**Yes.** Yes, I absolutely am.

If you look closely, the modern K-pop industry is essentially a glamorous, high-stakes battlefield. Groups debut every single month, fighting ruthlessly for chart rankings, competing for brand deals, and trying to survive in an ocean of fiercely talented rivals. In this context, the "state" is the ***Flying Ari federation*** itself. The "survival of the state" means keeping the group together, protecting their artistic integrity, and maintaining the unwavering loyalty of the fandom.

Therefore, every single flag, every shield, and every design choice I make for these girls is strictly guided by this Reason of State. It is not just about drawing a pretty bird or a cute hamster on a shield. It is about giving them a visual armor that screams power, permanence, and historical weight. When a member waves their personal standard, it is a psychological weapon; it is a declaration that they are not just a temporary pop group, but a sovereign entity that is here to conquer and stay.

At this point, you might flip the page and ask yet another burning question:

***"Okay, Gia Huy, we understand the survival aspect. But why Tito? Out of all the historical figures, why bring the complex legacy of a 20th-century Yugoslav statesman into a modern K-pop idol federation?"***

The answer to this lies in a strange, almost cosmic coincidence surrounding my own existence. I was born on ***May 4th, 2006***. If you know anything about ***modern pop culture***, you know that every year on

my birthday, people joyfully tell me, ***"May the Fourth be with you,"*** a famous pun from the ***Star Wars*** **cinematic universe**. For a long time, I just thought I shared my birthday with a galaxy far, far away.

However, as I dug deeper into history, I discovered a fascinating historical alignment. Exactly twenty-six years before I took my first breath, on May 4th, 1980, ***Josip Broz Tito***, the long-time President of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, ***passed away.*** This bizarre chronological connection made me incredibly curious about his life. And as I studied him, I developed a profound, personal respect for his ultimate geopolitical vision.

During the brutal chaos of ***World War II***, as he led the resistance, Tito realized that the only way for his people to survive annihilation was absolute solidarity among the different regions. To achieve this, he popularized the legendary guiding principle of **"*Bratstvo i jedinstvo*"** (Brotherhood and Unity). In one of his most famous and passionate historical declarations, he urged his people with this exact phrase:

***"Čuvajte bratstvo i jedinstvo kao zenicu oka svog."***

("Safeguard ***brotherhood and unity*** as the ***apple of your eye.***")

He did not want to erase the unique identities of the ***Serbs, Croats, Bosniaks,*** or ***Slovenes.*** Instead, he wanted them to ***embrace their individual cultures*** while fiercely protecting their unified existence as if it were the most ***fragile, precious*** part of their own bodies—***the pupil of their eye***. This profound philosophy of protective unity deeply resonated with me, and it became the perfect ideological **blueprint** for what I wanted to build for our nine girls.

You might think that creating a fully functioning political federation for a pop group is an **entirely unprecedented** level of fan obsession. However, history shows us that K-pop fans have always been visionary world-builders. Look back at the massive legacy of ***BTS*** and their passionate fandom. Years ago, inspired by the fictional nation of ***Wakanda*** from the ***Marvel*** cinematic universe, the fans famously established the glorious **"*Namkanda*"**—a conceptual, utopian nation led by their leader, Kim Namjoon. It proved that a fandom is not just a group of people buying albums and streaming music; it is a cultural state, a sovereign entity bound by love and shared values.

***The Flying Ari Federation*** is my personal, architectural contribution to this grand K-pop tradition. It is a visual sanctuary where nine wildly different talents can rule their own autonomous domains while standing fiercely under one unified banner. It takes the concept of "Brotherhood and Unity" and weaves it directly into the fabric of their identity.

To all the incredible fans reading this, to the nine beautiful members of the group, and especially to my beloved sister, ***Nguyen Khanh Linh***—the very first spark of inspiration who received my first flag before this grand vision expanded into an entire federation—I truly hope you understand the profound

intentions woven into these designs. I did not just want to give you pretty graphics or trendy pop-art logos; I wanted to give you a permanent historical legacy.

Every single tincture, every geometric charge, and every meticulously crafted crest in the upcoming pages was born from a place of immense respect and absolute dedication to your journey. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for allowing me to build this universe for you.

## 2) OUR UNION

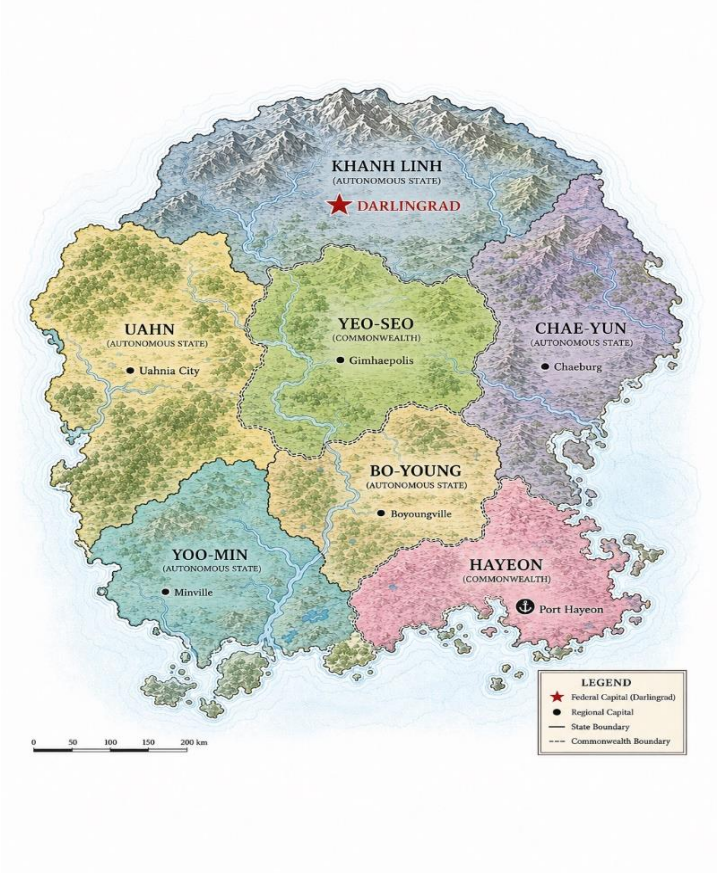



***Figure 1. The Map of Our Union (before the July 10th amendment)***

If you are going to understand the flags and coats of arms in the upcoming chapters, you must first understand the ground you are standing on.

Our group and our absolute identity function as a ***free, united, federal republican state***. Metaphorically and structurally, this grand union stretches all the way from the towering northern sovereignty of the ***State of Khanh Linh*** to the vibrant, dynamic borders of the ***State of Uahn***.

However, as I mentioned in the prologue to this chapter, true vexillology and political geography are never perfectly simple. If there are nine incredible members in this idol group, your basic math would probably tell you that there should be exactly nine member states, right? ***Wrong***. This is where our previous lesson on the "Reason of State" and "Brotherhood and Unity" truly comes to life.

We are not just nine disconnected, isolated islands floating in a lonely ocean. To maximize our strategic power and celebrate our shared histories, the Flying Ari Federation is officially and legally divided into exactly ***seven*** distinct territories.

These seven territories are meticulously structured to honor the members' hometowns, their specialized roles, and their deeply intertwined personal lore. Specifically, the union is composed of ***Five Autonomous States*** and ***Two Commonwealths*** (or a ratio of 5:2, ***five-to-two***). While a 'State' represents the supreme, individual sovereignty of a single member, a 'Commonwealth' represents a traditional, profoundly bound regional community.

The most shining example of this is the majestic ***Yeo-Seo Commonwealth***. In the real world, members ***Cho Yeo-won*** and ***Lee Seo-young*** share a powerful, unbreakable bond simply because they both hail from the same proud hometown of ***Gimhae***. Instead of forcing them into two separate, lonely states, the Federation structurally merges their power into one colossal Commonwealth. Similarly, we have the strategic domain of the ***Hayeon Commonwealth***. This specific territorial division proves that our Federation is built on genuine sisterhood, not just rigid mathematics.

To make this geopolitical map perfectly clear for our new citizens and global fans, let us officially break down the Federation. The nine girls are structurally organized into the following seven sovereign territories. To solidify their absolute authority, each territory boasts its own distinct, culturally localized capital city:

| No. | Territory Name | Representative Member(s) | Capital City |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1.** | State of Khanh Linh | Nguyễn Khánh Linh | Darlingrad |
| **2.** | State of Bo-young | Kim Bo-young | Boyoungville |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **3.** | State of Chae-yun | Lee Chae-yun | Chae-burg |
| **4.** | State of Yoo-min | Kim Yoo-min | Minville |
| **5.** | State of Uahn | Lee Uahn (Lee Yu-ahn) | Uahnia City |
| **6.** | Commonwealth of Yeo-Seo | Cho Yeo-won & Lee Seo-young | Yeoseopolis (formerly Gimhaepolis) |
| 7. | Commonwealth of Hayeon | Moon Ha-yeon and Aoki Yuna | Port Hayeon |

You might pause and ask:

***"Wait, if the Hayeon Commonwealth contains two members, Ha-yeon and Yuna, why is it not called the Ha-Yu Commonwealth?"***

This is where Federation politics gets incredibly interesting. Unlike **Yeo-Seo**, which is an equal merger of two hometown best friends, the Hayeon Commonwealth operates on a different strategic level. Because of a brilliant political arrangement for ***"regional stability",*** Yuna's territory officially submitted to and collaborated directly with the administrative center of Hayeon. Therefore, the entire region uses the singular name of its capital, ***Port Hayeon***, while still fully protecting Yuna's autonomous rights.

## 3) THE ARCHITECTURE OF OUR FLAGS

Now that we know the map of our Federation, ***how exactly did I design their flags?*** To maintain the utmost regal dignity, the flags of our territories are designed to be as ***strictly standardized*** and ***serious*** as possible. For most members, there will be **two** official variants: the ***State Flag*** (used for official, majestic authority) and the ***Civil Flag*** (a simplified version for general fandom use).

Because the individual member states function as ***lower administrative levels*** within the larger federal union, their flags naturally lean heavily toward **symbolic heraldry**. Instead of trying to blindly guess and assign **random-colored stripes** to each girl, I took inspiration from the regional flags of the United States, Russia, and Germany. In these nations, state flags frequently rely on a solid background color boldly defaced with the territory's official **Coat of Arms**.

By placing their coats of arms—which feature their cute animal mascots stylized into fierce heraldic beasts and subtle elements from their hometowns—directly onto the flags, we create a deeply personal and

unmistakable identity. It is a highly traditional approach, ensuring that every regional flag tells a rich, readable story of the girl it represents.

However, I must confess a crucial, ongoing dilemma regarding the ultimate flag of them all: The Federal Flag of the entire Flying Ari union. As of this writing, the Federation's main flag is technically incomplete. Why? Because the group has **not** officially debuted yet! We still do not know what official colors the agency will choose for the group's final brand identity. Designing a permanent federal flag without knowing the official fandom colors would be a ***geopolitical mistake***.

Therefore, the official Federal Flag and its final color palette will be heavily debated and locked in after their debut. Once that happens, I will proudly release a revised, updated edition of this very handbook. But do not worry—I will not leave you entirely ***empty-handed***. Assuming the group might adopt a powerful, striking red as their main color, I have included a preliminary ***"proposed"*** design of the Federal Flag at the very end of this book. Consider it a top-secret sneak peek of our future glory!

## 4) THE COATS OF ARMS: BEHIND THE SYMBOLS

Many of you might be wondering:

***"Gia Huy, are you actually going to use the members' favorite animals or hometown symbols for their official coats of arms?"***

The answer is a resounding **yes**. However, getting this information was **not easy**. Because the group has **not** officially debuted, their personal details are not yet public knowledge. I could not simply search for their official profiles on the internet.

To solve this crisis, I had to rely on a highly classified ***'insider.'*** After I finished designing the very first flag for Khanh Linh, I directly asked her to ***reveal the representative animals*** of the other members. Thankfully, she was incredibly helpful and provided me with the sacred list. But as the **Chief Architect** of this Federation, I must now formally issue an ***apology*** for what I did next.

First, I sincerely apologize to ***Khanh Linh*** and ***Chae-yun***. According to the insider intel, Chae-yun actually loves ***puppies***. However, the Federation only has so much room for dogs, and I arbitrarily decided to reserve the puppy mascot for our beloved ***maknae*** (youngest member), Uahn. So, what did I do with Chae-yun? I aggressively dug into her legendary past during her ***'Girls Planet 999'*** era and assigned her a ***dinosaur*** instead. That is exactly how the tiny-armed ***Chae-Rex*** was born!

And second, I must deeply apologize to ***Uahn*** and her cute mascot, ***Uahn-daeng***. Even though she was the ***third*** member I designed for (right after Chae-yun), her official coat of arms does **not** feature a puppy at all! Why? Because when I looked at her inspiring journey, a cute dog just did not capture her

sheer willpower. Instead, I ruthlessly replaced the puppy on her shield with a classical cello and a glowing ***Star of Hope***. This was to honor the heartbreaking yet triumphant fact that she survived more than a hundred failed auditions before finally finding her home.

So, sometimes, as a vexillologist, you have to completely ignore a member's ***personal preference*** to highlight their actual **blood, sweat,** and **tears**. I hope the girls can forgive my ruthless heraldic decisions!

# QUESTIONAIRE

**Instruction:** Answer the 5 open-ended questions below based on your general knowledge of the reality show ***'Flying Ari'*** and its final 9 debut members.

**1.** Can you list the names of all 9 members who successfully made it into the official final lineup of Flying Ari?

_____
_____
_____
_____

**2.** Who is the eldest member (the ***'Big Sister'***) of the group, and on which special romantic day was she born?

_____
_____
_____
_____

**3.** Which two members hail from the exact same hometown of ***Gimhae*** (a city in South Gyeongsang Province, Republic of Korea)?

_____
_____

**4.** Which member previously captured the audience's hearts during her iconic appearance on the survival show ***'Girls Planet 999'***?

_____
_____

**5.** Which inspiring member persevered through nearly 100 failed auditions before finally securing her triumphant debut in the group?

_____
_____

## 1) THE STATE OF KHANH LINH

| | |
|---|---|
| **State Name:** | The Sovereign State of Khanh Linh |
| **Administrative Capital:** | Darlingrad |
| **Representative Member:** | Nguyen Khanh Linh |
| **Primary Tinctures:** | Navy Blue & Gold |

*The State Ensign of the State of Khanh Linh*

*The Civil Ensign of the State of Khanh Linh*

*The Greater and Lesser Coat of Arms of the State of Khanh Linh*

## 1. DEFINITION OF THE STATE

***The State of Khanh Linh*** is a territory situated in the extreme northern region of the Flying Ari Federation. Serving as the supreme northern pillar and political cornerstone of the nation, it is bordered to the west by the State of Uahn, to the south by the Yeo-Seo Commonwealth, and to the southeast by the State of Chae-yun, with its entire northern frontier defined by imposing mountain ranges. Named after and represented by the group's eldest member, Nguyen Khanh Linh, this territory embodies leadership, dignity, and historical resilience. Geographically characterized by rolling northern peaks, lush bamboo valleys, and the winding Ari River, it serves as the spiritual and geographical heartland of the entire union.

According to ancient regional mythology, the state's origins trace back to a humble, isolated mountain village nestled deep within the northern highlands. Long before the rise of modern federal governance, Khanh Linh grew up amidst these mist-shrouded peaks, learning the quiet fortitude of mountain life. Driven by a vision of unity and prosperity, she led her early villagers on a historic campaign of territorial reclamation—clearing dense alpine wilderness, terracing steep mountain slopes, and establishing sustainable agricultural settlements along the Ari River. This arduous pioneering labor transformed a rugged mountain hamlet into a prosperous, indestructible northern bastion.

Strategically, the State of Khanh Linh functions as the impenetrable northern fortress of the entire Flying Ari Federation. The territory's rugged geography—dominated by jagged alpine ridges, dense high-altitude bamboo forests, and narrow mountain passes—creates an unbreachable natural defense wall along the nation's northern frontier. Historically, these formidable geographical barriers rendered the northern border virtually immune to foreign invasion, allowing Khanh Linh's early settlers to develop their

civilization in absolute security while providing a permanent, unyielding territorial anchor for the entire union.

The territory's primary seat of power, ***Darlingrad***, holds a unique and supreme dual distinction within the federal structure. It is not only the regional capital of Khanh Linh's state, but it also officially serves as the ***Federal Capital*** of the entire Flying Ari Federation. As the ultimate seat of federal government, high diplomacy, and supreme executive authority, **Darlingrad** unites all five states and two commonwealths under one sovereign roof.

## 2. THE FLAG AND COAT OF ARMS OF THE STATE

**The Flag of the State of Khanh Linh** features a commanding field of Navy Blue; a tincture historically associated with supreme regional leadership and high command.

Positioned precisely in the center of the flag is the state's full heraldic achievement, enclosed within a sprawling golden laurel wreath. This wreath represents wisdom, victorious guidance, and the foundational role Khanh Linh fulfills as the eldest sister of the Union.

Sitting proudly atop the wreath is a pink lotus in full bloom, honoring her Vietnamese heritage and symbolizing pure grace emerging from challenging environments. Within the central golden shield, the flag displays a deeply symbolic regional landscape: a grove of Vietnamese bamboo (*Tre*) representing unyielding fortitude, a glowing five-pointed red star illuminating the upper horizon as a beacon of national victory, and a winding blue watercourse flowing serenely through the golden mountain valleys. This central river carries a profound dual symbolism: within the internal mythology of the Flying Ari Federation, it represents the sacred Ari River that nourishes the northern valleys, while simultaneously serving as a direct real-world tribute to the historic Lô River of her actual birthplace in Tuyên Quang Province, Vietnam.

Anchoring the entire composition at the base is a flowing white scroll inscribed with the official Latin motto: ***PER ASPERA AD ASTRA*** (Latin for "Through Hardships to the Stars").

To fully appreciate the weight of this motto, one must trace its origins back to classical Roman antiquity. While the exact wording ***Per aspera ad astra*** evolved over centuries of European heraldry and statecraft, its philosophical blueprint originates from the famous Roman Stoic philosopher **Seneca the Younger**. In his classical tragedy ***Hercules Furens***, Seneca explored the immense physical and mental trials required for a mortal hero to achieve divine immortality, coining a phrase that would echo through human history:

***"Non est ad astra mollis e terris via."***

(There is no easy way from the earth to the stars.)

When dissected linguistically, the motto carries a profound structural meaning that mirrors Khanh Linh's personal career trajectory. The preposition ***Per*** signifies a deliberate journey through action and transition. ***Aspera***, a plural noun translating to "rough places" or "thorny obstacles," directly acknowledges the exhausting realities of the idol industry—the endless training hours, the brutal evaluations during JTBC's survival show ***Flying Ari***, and the quiet sacrifices made far from her hometown. The preposition ***Ad*** acts as a golden arrow pointing resolutely forward, leading toward ***Astra***, the ultimate celestial stars of victory and global stardom.

## 2) THE COMMONWEALTH OF HAYEON

| | |
|---|---|
| **State Name:** | The Commonwealth of Hayeon |
| **Administrative Capital:** | Port Hayeon |
| **Representative Member:** | Moon Hayeon & Aoki Yuna |
| **Primary Tinctures:** | Marine Blue, Pure White, and Imperial Gold |

*The State and Civil Ensign of the Commonwealth of Hayeon*

*The Coat of Arms of the Commonwealth of Hayeon*

*The Great Seal of the Commonwealth of Hayeon*

## 1. DEFINITION OF THE STATE

***The Commonwealth of Hayeon*** is a strategic maritime state situated in the fertile southeastern region of the Flying Ari Federation. Geographically, it occupies a prime coastal position: bordered to the northwest by the State of Bo-young, to the northeast by the ***State of Chae-yun***, to the west by the ***State of Yoomin***, and bounded to the entire south by the expansive ***Southern Sea***. Its bustling administrative capital, ***Port Hayeon***, serves as the primary naval hub and maritime gateway of the nation. Formed as a collaborative union between Moon Hayeon and Aoki Yuna, the territory harmoniously blends Korean and Japanese coastal heritages into a single sovereign identity.

Situated directly on the deep-water natural harbor of Port Hayeon along the Southern Sea, this territory completely commands the nation's international maritime trade routes. Virtually all commercial shipping, foreign cargo imports, and industrial exports must pass through its advanced naval terminals. As the federation's undisputed maritime gateway, the Commonwealth drives national commerce, housing the country's largest commercial shipyards, naval logistics hubs, and international maritime customs offices.

Geopolitically, the territory functions as the formidable southern naval shield of federal sovereignty. Its extensive maritime fleet and coastal defense installations constantly guard the Southern Sea, guaranteeing total maritime security for neighboring inland territories such as the States of Yoomin, Bo-young, and Chae-yun. Furthermore, the Commonwealth acts as a vital **diplomatic bridge**. By fusing the

ancestral roots of Moon Hayeon with the maritime heritage of Japanese-born Aoki Yuna, Port Hayeon serves as the premier neutral zone for international summits, maritime trade treaties, and global cultural exchanges—cementing the region as both a naval stronghold and a beacon of open diplomacy.

## 2. THE FLAG, THE SEAL AND COAT OF ARMS OF THE STATE

The flag of the Commonwealth of Hayeon is structured as a balanced horizontal triband of Marine Blue, Pure White, and Marine Blue. The dual blue bands represent the surrounding Southern Sea and maritime dominance, while the wide central white stripe signifies peace, coastal purity, and diplomatic unity.

At the center of the flag rests a radiant golden circular emblem depicting a rising sun shining over ocean waves, symbolizing new horizons and perpetual energy. Framing this maritime sun are two distinct botanical branches: blooming cherry blossoms (***sakura***) on the left and golden ginkgo leaves (***eunhaeng***) on the right, honoring the dual cultural roots of Yuna and Hayeon. Flanking the central emblem are two golden five-pointed stars, representing the equal, united partnership of the two founding members.

The Coat of Arms of the Commonwealth of Hayeon serves as the primary visual embodiment of the Commonwealth's identity. Positioned at the center of the achievement is a heraldic shield depicting two regional mascots—***Ha-Tokki the Rabbit*** and ***Yu-Ramjwi the Squirrel***—standing together upon the rolling waves of the Southern Sea while jointly elevating a glowing six-pointed star. In the background, a golden sun rises over the maritime horizon, illuminating the shield with rays of progress and optimism.

Beyond their symbolic representation of members Moon Hayeon and Aoki Yuna, these two heraldic beasts draw direct inspiration from a renowned physical landmark within the territory: the Kofuku Zoo and Nature Reserve. Situated in the coastal city of South Coast within the Yuna County—the highest administrative sub-division of the Commonwealth—this sprawling ecological sanctuary is famous for its pine forests and protected meadows where wild rabbits and tree squirrels famously live in natural harmony.

The Great Seal of Hayeon adapts the core coat of arms into an official circular administrative mark used for high diplomatic treaties and state documents. The seal features a bold circular outer ring inscribed with the formal title "**THE GREAT SEAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF HAYEON**" alongside the founding year, 2026.

Encircling the central shield within both the seal and the coat of arms are symmetrical, hand-drawn branches of blooming cherry blossoms (***sakura***) on the left and golden ginkgo leaves (***eunhaeng***) on the right. These botanical elements serve a vital diplomatic purpose, honoring the dual cultural heritage of Japanese-born Aoki Yuna and Korean-born Moon Hayeon. The entire seal is anchored at the base by a flowing white scroll bearing the Commonwealth's official motto.

The official Latin motto of the Commonwealth, inscribed upon the scroll at the base of both the coat of arms and the Great Seal, is ***VITA IN MOTU*** (Latin for "Life in Motion"). This succinct phrase was chosen to represent the ever-flowing, powerful tides of the Southern Sea and the relentless artistic momentum of the Commonwealth's reigning leaders. It serves as an unyielding state directive: to never settle into stagnant complacency, but to constantly move forward. The phrase stems from the ancient Aristotelian and Stoic principle that static rest is equivalent to decay, whereas active movement is the absolute proof of vitality.

Linguistically, ***Vita in Motu*** encapsulates the personal career trajectories of both Moon Hayeon and Aoki Yuna. ***Vita*** represents the vibrant, unstoppable life force of their artistic dreams, while ***Motu*** signifies the physical and mental movement required to achieve them—the endless dance rehearsals, the maritime tides of Port Hayeon, and the courageous leap across international borders to debut on the global stage. It reminds the citizens of the Commonwealth that true strength is found not in standing still, but in riding the waves of change.

## 3) THE STATE OF YOOMIN

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **State Name:** | : | The Sovereign State of Yoomin |
| **Administrative Capital:** | : | Minville |
| **Representative Member** | : | Kim Yoomin |
| **Primary Tinctures:** | : | Navy Blue, Imperial Gold, and Pure White |

*The State Ensign of the State of Yoomin*

*The Civil Ensign of the State of Yoomin*

*The Coat of Arms of the State of Yoomin*

## 1. DEFINITION OF THE STATE

***The State of Yoomin*** is a sovereign, highly strategic territory situated in the southwestern region of the Flying Ari Federation. Geographically, it is bordered to the north by the State of Uahn, to the northeast by the State of Bo-young, to the east by the Commonwealth of Hayeon, and to the entire south and west by the strategic waters of the Southwestern Ocean. Its administrative capital, ***Minville***, rests prominently at the mouth of a major river basin, serving as both the economic nerve center and the cultural heartland of the territory.

Yoomin holds a unique and highly prestigious classification within the federal structure. Originally established as a standard autonomous state, its critical geopolitical location along the volatile southern frontier prompted a major reform. The federal government officially converted Yoomin into a ***Centrally-Administered Special Federal Territory*** under direct central jurisdiction. While retaining its distinct regional identity and member representation under Kim Yoomin, the state operates under specialized federal security mandates to guarantee absolute stability across the nation's southwestern maritime perimeter.

This status directly reflects Yoomin's indispensable role in **national defense** and **homeland security.** Commanding the vital southwestern sea lanes, coastal surveillance networks, and strategic river mouths, the state acts as the primary shield protecting the federation's southern flank from external maritime threats. In close coordination with the neighboring Commonwealth of Hayeon, Yoomin's fortified coastal defense installations ensure that the entire Southern Ocean remains a peaceful, inviolable sanctuary for national trade and diplomacy.

Economically and culturally, the State of Yoomin is a dominant powerhouse. Geologically, the territory is officially recognized as the **second richest state in natural mineral resources** across the entire federation, boasting massive reserves of precious metals, industrial ores, and rich alluvial deposits that fuel national manufacturing. Simultaneously, Yoomin is celebrated as the undisputed **Cultural Capital of the Federation**. Renowned for its historic music academies, vibrant performing arts scenes, and rich artistic heritage, the state constantly nurtures the creative soul of the nation—creating a unique territory where heavy industrial wealth meets timeless artistic elegance.

## 2. THE FLAG, THE SEAL AND COAT OF ARMS OF THE STATE

The Special Federal State of Yoomin utilizes two official flag variants to serve its complex administrative and maritime needs: the ***State Flag*** and the ***Civil Ensign***.

The State Flag—featuring the complete central coat of arms—is strictly reserved for official federal buildings, military installations, and ceremonies. Conversely, the Civil Ensign is a simplified version consisting purely of the five horizontal stripes without any central heraldic emblem. This allows general citizens, commercial merchant vessels, and public festival grounds to freely display the state's colors with maximum visibility and ease of reproduction.

The flag's fundamental design is built upon a balanced, five-stripe horizontal layout featuring three distinct tinctures: Navy Blue on the outer top and bottom margins, Golden Yellow on the inner narrow bands, and a wide Pure White field occupying the central center. This specific arrangement creates a striking visual contrast that adheres strictly to the classical rules of vexillology, ensuring the flag remains instantly identifiable whether flying over a naval warship or a civilian fishing boat in the Southwestern Ocean.

Every color embedded within the five stripes carries a profound geopolitical and symbolic meaning. The two outer bands of Navy Blue represent the deep, strategic waters of the Southwestern Ocean that border the territory, as well as the strength, stability, and unwavering vigilance of national defense. The inner bands of Golden Yellow symbolize the vast mineral wealth buried beneath the state's soil—honoring its status as the federation's second richest mineral territory—as well as the golden prosperity generated by its industrial economy. Finally, the central field of Pure White signifies political integrity, peace under direct federal administration, and the harmonious unity between heavy industry and vibrant cultural arts.

The Coat of Arms of the State of Yoomin is dominated by a majestic Black Eagle with widely outstretched wings, serving as the primary bearer and guardian of the state's heraldic achievement. In classical heraldry, the eagle represents supreme vigilance, authority, and unyielding military defense. Positioned at the heart of the state flag, this black eagle symbolizes Yoomin's vital constitutional mandate as the fortified guardian of the federation's southwestern maritime perimeter. Its widely spread wings signify the state's protective reach over both its mineral-rich inland valleys and its coastal sea lanes.

Resting prominently upon the eagle's breast is the central heraldic shield, divided horizontally into two distinct fields. The upper field, rendered in golden yellow, features a radiant eight-pointed star, representing a navigational compass rose that guides southwestern maritime trade, as well as a symbolic beacon of regional enlightenment. The lower field, set against a deep navy-blue background, displays a golden acoustic guitar. This unique charge directly honors member Kim Yoomin's personal musical mastery, while officially designating the territory as the undisputed Cultural Capital of the Federation.

Floating directly above the eagle's head is a five-pointed Red Star outlined in gold. This celestial charge signifies absolute alignment with the central federal government in Darlingrad, as well as the shared republican ideals of unity, national victory, and federal solidarity. Clutched firmly in the eagle's golden talons is a sweeping golden ribbon scroll, representing the legal dignity, economic prosperity, and sovereign authority of this centrally-administered special federal territory.

## 4) THE COMMONWEALTH OF YEO-SEO

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Territory Name** | : | The Commonwealth of Yeo-Seo |
| **Administrative Capital** | : | Yeoseopolis |
| **Representing Members** | : | Cho Yeowon & Lee Seoyoung |
| **Primary Tinctures** | : | Forest Green, Wood Brown, and Imperial Gold |

*The State Ensign of The Commonwealth of Yeo-Seo*

*The Civil Ensign of The Commonwealth of Yeo-Seo*

*The Coat of Arms of the Commonwealth of Yeo-Seo*

*The Great Seal of the Commonwealth of Yeo-Seo*

## 1. DEFINITION OF THE STATE

***The Commonwealth of Yeo-Seo*** is a vast, ecologically pristine territory situated at the precise geographical heart of the Flying Ari Federation. Occupying an indispensable central crossroads, it is bordered to the north by the State of Khanh Linh, to the west by the State of Uahn, to the southwest by the State of Yoomin, to the south by the State of Bo-young, and to the east by the State of Chae-yun. Its monumental administrative capital, Yeoseopolis, stands as a sprawling, landlocked metropolis surrounded by dense woodland valleys and winding river basins. Co-governed under a joint sovereign council by members Cho Yeowon and Lee Seoyoung, this autonomous commonwealth is recognized throughout the federation as both an environmental sanctuary and the nation's primary industrial forestry powerhouse.

According to a local folklore, the two founding leaders were originally born in the southeastern coastal settlements—in the exact maritime region that would later develop into the famous trading hub of Port Hayeon. However, as coastal competition intensified and maritime resources grew crowded, Yeowon and Seoyoung led a historic westward migration into the fertile, untouched central interior. Seeking long-term territorial independence and sustainable livelihoods, they led thousands of pioneer settlers into the deep woodlands. Together, they cleared timber tracts, established fortified stone trade posts, and constructed what would eventually become the grand city of Yeoseopolis, transforming the virgin wilderness into a flourishing inland civilization.

Economically, the Commonwealth derives its immense wealth and political leverage not only from raw timber reserves but also from its undisputed status as the "Paper Capital" of the Flying Ari Federation. The territory encompasses the federation's grandest cedar, oak, and pine woodlands, fueling massive timber processing complexes, high-grade lumber mills, and advanced paper manufacturing plants. Virtually every sheet of paper used across the seven member territories—from official federal government decrees, constitutional documents, and state passports to educational textbooks, music sheet books, and concert literature—is harvested and manufactured within Yeoseopolis. This vast paper and printing monopoly, combined with strict sustainable forestry laws, grants Yeo-Seo a unique economic identity: serving as both the literal foundation of federal literacy and bureaucracy, as well as the green, oxygen-rich ecological heart of the entire nation.

Beyond the industrial harvesting of timber and paper manufacturing, the citizens of the Yeo-Seo Commonwealth maintain a deeply spiritual and cultural reverence for their natural surroundings. In local culture, trees are not merely viewed as commercial commodities, but as sacred, living guardians of the realm. Regional federal statutes strictly mandate that for every single tree harvested for lumber or paper production, at least **five** new saplings must be planted and nurtured in designated reforestation zones. This deeply ingrained ethos of environmental stewardship guarantees that despite heavy industrial output, the Commonwealth's total forest coverage continues to expand every year, ensuring that ecological health remains entirely uncompromised.

## 2. THE FLAG, THE SEAL AND COAT OF ARMS OF THE STATE

**The Commonwealth of Yeo-Seo** utilizes two distinct flag variants to serve its civil and governmental functions: the **Civil Flag** and the **State Flag**. Both flags are built upon the exact same foundational field—a deep, rich expanse of Forest Green representing the territory's vast, ancient woodlands, anchored along the bottom margin by two horizontal, wavy stripes of Marine Blue and Pure White. These wavy base stripes serve as a constant visual tribute to the coastal tides and historical waterways navigated by the founding pioneers before migrating into the interior heartland.

The Civil Flag is designed specifically for public display, commercial maritime use, and civilian festivals throughout Yeoseopolis and its regional districts. In this variant, the central field displays a large, solitary Golden Oak Tree with deep, sprawling roots standing directly upon the green background above the ocean waves. By omitting the formal circular seal text and complex border ornaments, the Civil Flag presents a clean, uncluttered, and striking icon of nature and timber wealth that can be effortlessly identified from long distances.

Conversely, the State Flag serves as the primary symbol of governmental authority, hoisted strictly over state assemblies, judicial courts, and official administrative facilities. This variant replaces the standalone golden tree with the complete, circular Great Seal of the Commonwealth centered prominently upon the green field. The seal encloses the full heraldic shield within a gold-bordered ring bearing the formal title "**THE GREAT SEAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF YEO-SEO**" and the founding year, 2026.

The Coat of Arms of the Yeo-Seo Commonwealth represents the formal heraldic achievement of the territory, serving as the official seal of its sovereign leaders, Cho Yeowon and Lee Seoyoung. Positioned at the center of the achievement is a classic heraldic escutcheon with a field of deep Forest Green. Resting upon the lower third of the shield are stylized ocean waves of Marine Blue and Pure White, directly recalling the maritime origins of the territory's founders before their historic inland migration. Standing proudly upon these waves is a magnificent Golden Oak Tree with exposed, deep-reaching roots, symbolizing deep-seated stability, endurance, and the sprawling timber wealth of the realm. Directly above the oak tree sits a radiant golden coronet, signifying the autonomous regional sovereignty granted to the Commonwealth within the federal union.

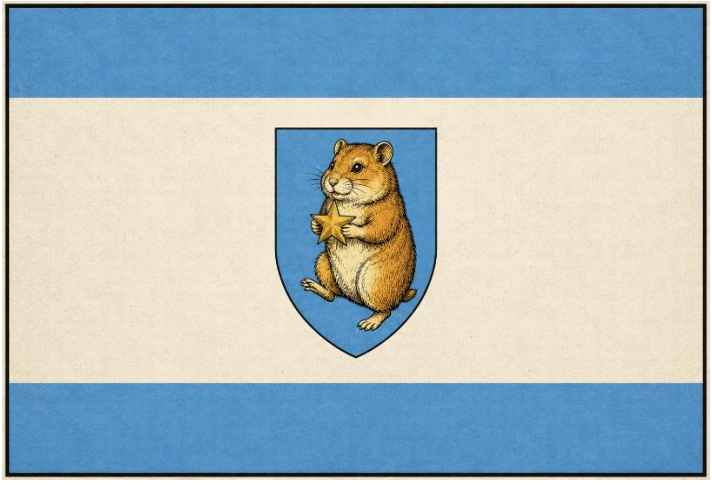
Flanking the heraldic shield is an intricate, symmetrical wreath composed of golden oak branches, heavy acorns, and pinecones. These botanical supporters honor the rich biodiversity of the central woodlands surrounding Yeoseopolis, celebrating both the timber industry that drives the economy and the fierce conservation efforts of its citizens. The inclusion of pinecones specifically references the ancient evergreen pine forests that shield the territory's northern valleys.

Anchoring the base of the heraldic achievement is a flowing white scroll bearing the Commonwealth's official Latin motto: ***EX MARI AD SILVAM*** (Latin for "From the Sea to the Forest").

This motto encapsulates the foundational history of the territory, commemorating the migration of Yeowon and Seoyoung from the southeastern coastal waters to the interior forests. Linguistically, the phrase pairs ***Ex Mari*** (from the sea) with ***Ad Silvam*** (to the forest), serving as a permanent philosophical reminder that the Commonwealth's enduring inland strength was born from courageous journeys across open waters.

## 5) THE STATE OF BO-YOUNG

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Official Name:** | : | The Sovereign State of Bo-young |
| **Administrative Capital:** | : | Boyoungville |
| **Representing Member:** | : | Kim Boyoung |
| **Primary Tinctures:** | : | Sky Blue, Pure White, and Sun Gold |



*The State and Civil Ensign of the State of Bo-young*

*The Coat of Arms of the State of Bo-young*

## 1. DEFINITION OF THE STATE

***The State of Bo-young*** is a territory situated in the central-southern interior of the Flying Ari Federation. Occupying a crucial inland agricultural nexus, it is bordered to the north by the forested hills of the Yeo-Seo Commonwealth, to the west by the State of Yoomin, and to the east by the Commonwealth of Hayeon. Its sprawling, cheerful administrative capital, ***Boyoungville***, rests prominently at the junction of several major river basins. The state is officially recognized across the union as the National Food Capital, fueling the entire federation's population.

According to the regional folklore, the founding of the state is rooted in an agricultural migration. In the early days before the federation's unification, Kim Boyoung and a dedicated group of pioneer settlers originally resided in dense, overcrowded industrial cities. The territory was founded when Kim Boyoung led a historic migration of early settlers away from urban centers in search of a peaceful, self-sustaining lifestyle. Arriving in the virgin central-southern plains, the pioneers initially planted vast fields of ***golden sunflowers*** to nourish their early settlements and stabilize the soil. As the colony expanded and agricultural science advanced, the settlers scaled up their operations, transforming the landscape into endless, high-yield fields of wheat and rice that now feed millions across all seven federal territories.

Despite the state being lightheartedly associated with its cute rodent mascot, ***Bo-Hamster***, and her famous love for sunflower seeds, the territory holds a serious economic superpower: it is officially the **richest rice-producing state in the entire nation**.

Through advanced agrarian technology, automated irrigation from river tributaries, and pristine soil management, Bo-young maintains an absolute monopoly over national rice and grain production. The state generates immense economic wealth by supplying essential food staples, organic crops, and strategic grain reserves to every member state.

Unlike the towering concrete skyscrapers of Darlingrad or the dense stone fortifications of Yeoseopolis, the administrative capital of **Boyoungville** is intentionally master-planned under a unique concept known as "Rustic Modernism." The city shuns crowded urban sprawl in favor of a picturesque, countryside aesthetic featuring open green commons, timber barn-style architecture, and expansive wind turbines. However, beneath this charming rural facade lies world-class, high-tech infrastructure, including subterranean bullet train networks, automated granaries, and vertical farming research labs, offering a perfect harmony between rustic tranquility and modern industrial efficiency.

Culturally, the state's social calendar culminates in its grandest annual event: the State Harvest Week. Celebrated every year starting on **November 23rd**, the festival hosts the official **National Rice Day**, drawing thousands of delegates, tourists, and state leaders from across the federation to Boyoungville. During this week-long celebration, the state displays its agricultural bounty, holds grand grain banquets, and honors local farming cooperatives.

## 2. THE FLAG AND COAT OF ARMS OF THE STATE

The flag of the State of Bo-young features a uniquely unified design that officially serves as both the State Flag and the Civil Ensign for the entire territory. Unlike neighboring states such as Yoomin or Yeo-Seo that utilize distinct variants for governmental and civilian purposes, Bo-young operates under a single, highly versatile banner. From the administrative halls of Boyoungville to sprawling agricultural farmlands and commercial grain transports, every citizen and official flies the exact same emblem. This egalitarian approach reflects the state's rustic, communal ethos, ensuring that the government and the populace stand under one undivided identity.

Vexillologically, the flag is structured as a clean, bright horizontal triband consisting of two outer stripes of Sky Blue and a prominent, expansive central field of Pure White. The top and bottom Sky Blue bands symbolize the clear, optimistic skies hovering over the central-southern plains and the serene, peaceful disposition of the agricultural population. The wide central White field represents honesty, innocence, and the vast, open grain fields during harvest seasons, creating a high-contrast palette that ensures instant visibility from long distances.

Positioned precisely in the center of the white field is the state's official Coat of Arms—a minimalist, light-blue escutcheon of Azure. Depicted on the shield is the state's beloved mascot, the **Bo-Hamster**, rendered in warm golden-brown tones, standing joyfully on one foot while clutching a radiant five-pointed golden star in her paws. This central charge carries a profound emotional message: the golden hamster holding the star symbolizes holding onto one's cherished dreams with pure warmth and unyielding cheerfulness, representing the heart and soul of the state.

A highly distinct, historic anomaly of Bo-young's design is the total absence of an official scroll or state motto beneath the shield. Officially recorded as the only member state in the Flying Ari Federation without a state motto, this intentional omission deeply aligns with the territory's agrarian philosophy. The citizens and local government firmly believe that their unyielding hard work, bountiful harvests, and community unity speak far louder than any formal phrase, proudly choosing practical abundance over decorative state rhetoric.

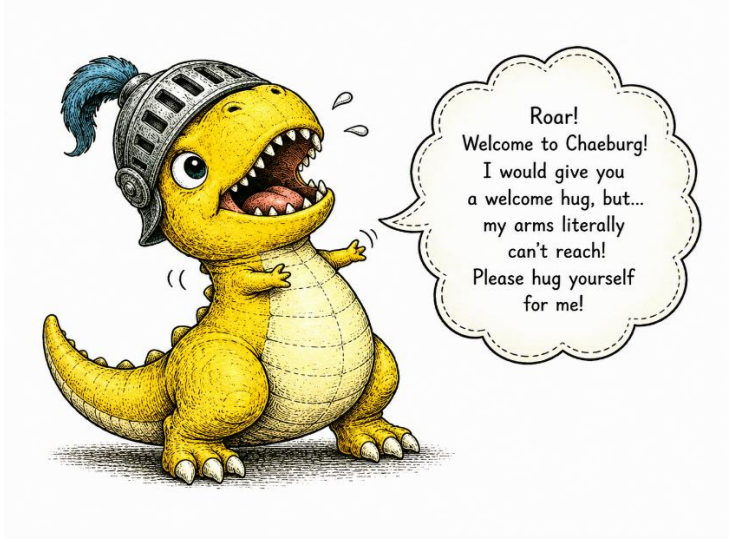
The Coat of Arms of the State of Bo-young is characterized by its refined minimalism and emotional clarity. Positioned at the center of the state flag—and acting as the sole official heraldic emblem of the territory—the achievement consists of a classic medieval escutcheon set against a field of Azure (Sky Blue). Unlike the heavily adorned crests of neighboring territories that feature elaborate supporters, royal coronets, and botanical wreaths, Bo-young's shield intentionally eschews all external heraldic clutter, placing absolute visual focus upon its central charge.

The central charge of the coat of arms depicts the state's beloved mascot, Bo-Hamster, rendered in warm golden-brown tones. The hamster is depicted in a joyful, dynamic posture, balancing cutely on one foot while affectionately clutching a radiant, five-pointed star of Sun Gold in her paws. This golden star

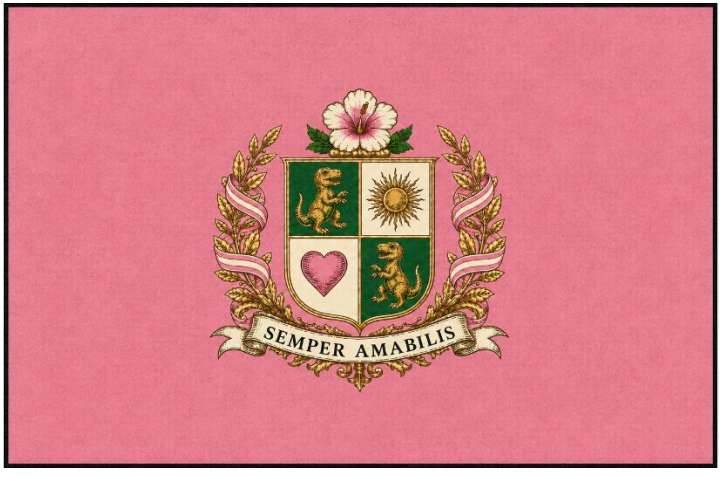
serves as a dual metaphor: representing both the bright, guiding light of Kim Boyoung's personal aspirations and the golden grain seeds harvested across the vast agricultural fields of Boyoungville.

The choice of an Azure (Sky Blue) tincture for the shield carries profound regional symbolism. In classical heraldry, Azure denotes loyalty, truth, and peaceful sincerity. Within the specific context of the state, it mirrors the clear, expansive skies that stretch over the central-southern grain basins, contrasting beautifully with the golden fur of the mascot and the star to create a high-contrast, instantly recognizable heraldic device.

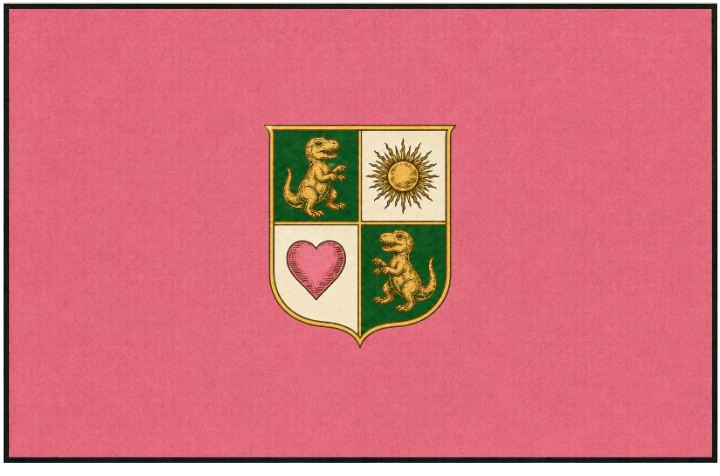
## 6) THE STATE OF CHAE-YUN



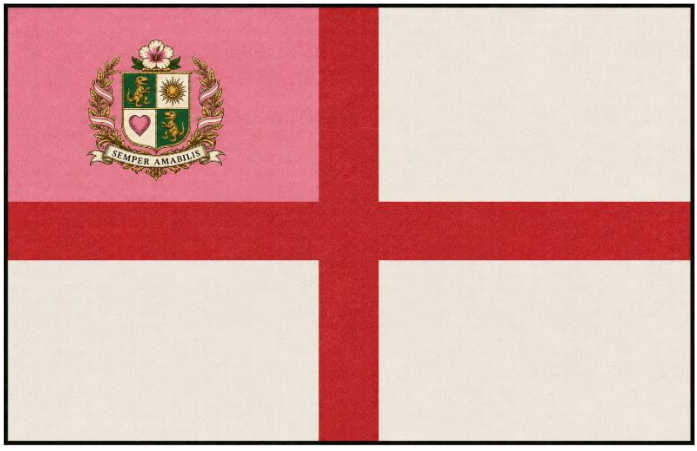

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Official Name** | : | The Sovereign State of Chae-yun |
| **Administrative Capital** | : | Chaeburg |
| **Representing Member** | : | Lee Chae-yun |
| **Primary Tinctures** | : | Rose Pink, Forest Green,<br>Pure White, and Imperial Gold |



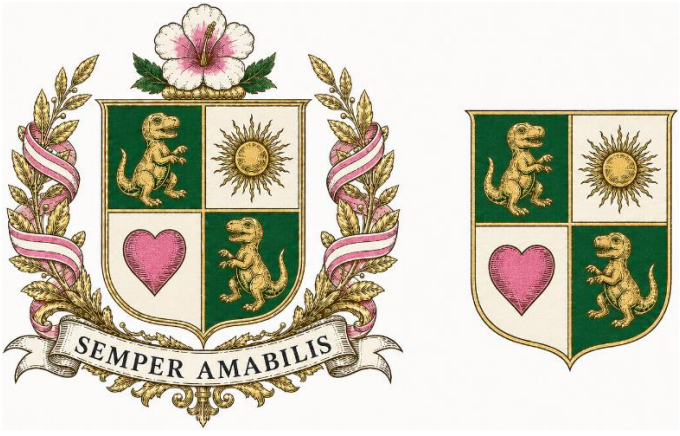

*The State Ensign of the State of Chae-yun*



*The Civil Ensign of the State of Chae-yun*




*The Naval Ensign of the State of Chae-yun*




*The Greater and Lesser Coat of Arms of the State of Chae-yun*

## 1. DEFINITION OF THE STATE

***The State of Chae-yun*** is a territory situated at the extreme eastern frontier of the Flying Ari Federation. Bounded to the north by the State of Khanh Linh, to the west by the Commonwealth of Yeo-Seo, to the south by the Commonwealth of Hayeon, and to the entire east by the Golden Sea, it serves as the nation's undisputed eastern maritime gateway. Because of its unique geographic position, Chae-yun is officially recognized as the very first realm in the federation to greet the rising sun each morning.

Every year on January 1st, thousands of citizens, federal leaders, and international diplomats travel to its eastern coastal cliffs to participate in a sacred national tradition: witnessing the very first sunrise of the New Year over the Golden Sea. Harnessing its brilliant coastal sun exposure and sweeping offshore gales, the state operates as the federation's primary capital of solar and wind energy, generating clean, renewable power for all seven member territories.

According to a local mythology, the territory was founded when Lee Chae-yun led a brave band of early settlers away from barren, isolated inland regions in search of a prosperous new home. As they journeyed toward the fertile eastern coast, the pioneers made a breathtaking discovery: massive, ancient fossilized footprints embedded in the coastal bedrock, left behind by prehistoric dinosaurs that once ruled the land. Interpreting these colossal tracks as a divine sign of immense strength, longevity, and unyielding spirit, Chae-yun and her settlers established their permanent homeland on these sacred grounds. This historic event directly inspired the creation of the state's beloved mascot, ***Chae-Rex***, honoring the prehistoric legacy of the territory.

In addition to its energy dominance and ancient lore, the State of Chae-yun functions as the primary ***diplomatic nerve center*** of the entire Flying Ari Federation. While Darlingrad remains the supreme administrative capital, ***Chaeburg*** was officially designated by federal constitutional decree as the permanent headquarters of the ***Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs***. Its grand, modern diplomatic complexes host foreign embassies, international summits, and global treaty signings, making Chaeburg the face of federal foreign policy.

## 2. THE FLAG AND COAT OF ARMS OF THE STATE

The State of Chae-yun utilizes a highly sophisticated three-flag system to serve its civil, diplomatic, and military maritime needs. While most member territories rely on two variants, Chae-yun holds a unique, historic distinction: it is currently the **only state in the Flying Ari Federation to maintain an official Naval Ensign**. Because the territory directly commands the strategic eastern approaches of the Golden Sea and hosts major federal naval installations, the state established a dedicated naval war flag alongside its standard Civil Flag and State Flag.

The Civil Flag is designed specifically for public display, commercial merchant vessels, and civilian festivals throughout Chaeburg and its coastal districts. Featuring a vibrant, solid field of Rose Pink—a tincture symbolizing youthful warmth, optimism, and deep affection—this variant displays only the

simplified four-quartered heraldic escutcheon (the Lesser Coat of Arms) in the center. By omitting the complex decorative frame, the Civil Flag offers exceptional visual clarity, allowing citizens to display their state pride with an approachable, clean, and striking design.

Conversely, the State Flag serves as the primary symbol of government authority and international diplomacy, hoisted strictly over state assemblies, judicial courts, and the headquarters of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Chaeburg. This variant retains the Rose Pink field but replaces the standalone shield with the complete, grand heraldic achievement centered upon the flag. Incorporating the surrounding golden laurel wreath wrapped in pink ribbons, the top floral crest (***Mugunghwa***), and the base motto scroll (*SEMPER AMABILIS*), the State Flag transforms the cheerful pink background into an authoritative, sovereign legal instrument.

Representing the apex of the state's maritime power, the official Naval Ensign is flown exclusively by warships, coastal defense vessels, and naval academies across the Golden Sea. Breaking away from the solid pink field, the Naval Ensign utilizes a traditional Pure White field divided into four quadrants by a prominent, heavy Red Cross—a classic naval motif signifying maritime command, vigilance, and coastal defense. Positioned in the honor position (the upper-left canton) is a solid Rose Pink square containing the state's full Coat of Arms, ensuring that Chae-yun's warships are instantly recognized across international waters.

The Coat of Arms of the State of Chae-yun represents the sovereign heraldic achievement of the territory. Resting atop the central escutcheon as the state crest is a blooming Rose of Sharon (*Mugunghwa*), rendered in delicate pink and white hues with lush green leaves. In East Asian floral symbolism, this sacred blossom signifies persistence, eternal beauty, and gentle grace, honoring Lee Chaeyun's artistic resilience and captivating stage presence. Enclosing the shield is a grand golden laurel wreath, wrapped gracefully in flowing Rose Pink silk ribbons, signifying diplomatic triumph, victory, and youthful elegance.

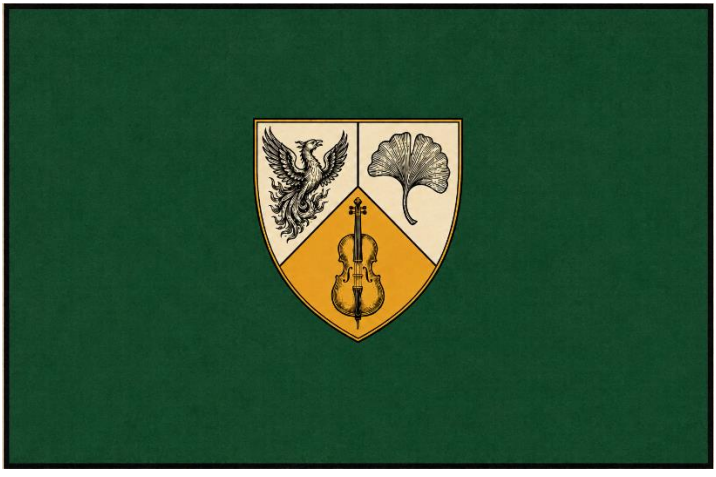
The central heraldic escutcheon itself is structured in a traditional four-quartered layout (quarterly), framed by a thin golden border. Quarters 1 and 4, set against a rich Forest Green field, feature a golden Tyrannosaurus Rex (*Chae-Rex*) standing in a proud, dynamic posture. This prehistoric charge directly references the ancient fossilized dinosaur tracks discovered by early coastal settlers, while lightheartedly immortalizing her iconic performance history on ***Girls Planet 999***. Quarter 2, set upon a Pure White field, displays a radiant golden sun with wavy, burning rays, celebrating Chae-yun as the easternmost territory that first greets the dawn over the Golden Sea. Quarter 3 features a vibrant Rose Pink heart, embodying unconditional affection, warmth, and the joyful spirit of the state's population.

Anchoring the entire heraldic achievement at the base is a flowing, multi-folded white scroll inscribed with the state's official Latin motto: ***SEMPER AMABILIS*** (Latin for "Always Lovable" or "Forever Worthy of Love").

Linguistically and philosophically, the motto derives from classical Roman moral literature. The adverb ***Semper*** denotes constancy, eternity, and unyielding persistence through time, while ***Amabilis***—derived from the Latin verb ***amare*** (to love)—translates to an entity that possesses natural charm, goodwill, and inherent lovability. In classical philosophy, particularly in the ethical writings of Cicero in ***De Amicitia***, the quality of being *amabilis* was revered as the supreme magnetic virtue that unites diverse peoples into a harmonious community.

## 7) THE STATE OF UAHN

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **State Name** | : | The Sovereign State of Uahn |
| **Administrative Capital** | : | Uahnia City |
| **Representative Member** | : | Lee Uahn (Lee Yu-ahn) |
| **Primary Tinctures** | : | Forest Green, Golden Amber, and Warm Cream |



*The State Ensign of the State of Uahn*

*The Civil Ensign of the State of Uahn*

*The Greater and Lesser Coat of Arms of the State of Uahn*

## 1. DEFINITION OF THE STATE

***The State of Uahn*** is a sovereign, resource-rich autonomous territory occupying the western frontier of the Flying Ari Federation. Geographically, it holds an indispensable western position: bordered to the north by the State of Khanh Linh, to the east by the Commonwealth of Yeo-Seo and the State of Bo-young, to the south by the State of Yoomin, and to the west by the serene waters of the Western Ocean. Its administrative capital, ***Uahnia City***, rests prominently amidst dramatic mountain valleys and deep mineral basins. Industrially, Uahn is an absolute resource superpower: officially ranked as the **number one richest territory in natural mineral wealth** across the entire federation, while simultaneously standing as the **second largest timber supplier**, trailing only the Yeo-Seo Commonwealth.

According to a local folklore, the territory's founding was forged through immense hardship and tragic sacrifice. Long ago, Lee Uahn led early settlers into the unexplored western mountains on a quest to discover vital mineral veins. In a striking historical parallel to her own music career, her expedition suffered exactly **one hundred failed excavation attempts**. The settlers faced brutal cave-ins, collapsed mining shafts, and treacherous rockfalls, with several brave pioneers tragically losing their lives in the dark depths. Despite overwhelming grief and consecutive failures, Uahn refused to abandon her people, rallying the survivors for one final push.

On her one-hundred-and-first expedition, Uahn's unwavering perseverance was finally rewarded. Deep within a vast western mountain cavern, the pioneers struck the richest veins of gold, industrial metals, and gemstone deposits ever recorded in history. This historic discovery transformed the barren western wilderness into a thriving mining and metallurgy empire. Upon the very grounds of this triumphant strike, Uahn and her surviving settlers constructed stone fortresses, advanced refineries, and subterranean

transport networks, establishing the magnificent, fortified metropolis of **Uahnia City**. The city stands as an eternal monument—built upon the sweat, tears, and memories of those who sacrificed everything for the state's birth.

Economically, the State of Uahn serves as the heavy industrial engine fueling the entire Flying Ari Federation. Its vast mining complexes extract high-grade iron, gold, and rare earth elements necessary for federal infrastructure, technology, and currency reserves. Simultaneously, its managed mountain forests yield massive quantities of premium timber, supporting national construction alongside the Commonwealth of Yeo-Seo.

While the neighboring State of Yoomin is celebrated as the overall Cultural Capital of the federation, Uahn holds a unique and prestigious academic mantle in the performing arts. Uahnia City was chosen as the permanent home of the prestigious **Federal Music Academy**, the highest institution for classical music, instrumental composition, and vocal mastery in the nation. Students, prodigies, and scholars from all seven member territories travel to Uahn to study under world-renowned masters.

## 2. THE FLAG AND COAT OF ARMS OF THE STATE

The State of Uahn utilizes a refined two-flag system consisting of a Civil Flag and a State Flag. Both variants are anchored by an identical, solid field of Forest Green. In heraldry, green represents growth, tranquility, and immortal hope—reflecting the lush western mountain valleys, the state's vast timber reserves, and the indestructible spirit of its people after enduring a hundred historic trials.

The Civil Flag is designed specifically for public display, commercial shipping, and civilian cultural festivals across the state. It displays only the central three-part escutcheon (the Lesser Coat of Arms) directly upon the green field. By omitting the complex surrounding golden wreaths, crests, and motto scrolls, the Civil Flag offers exceptional visual clarity, presenting a clean, highly readable emblem that citizens can proudly display during local events.

Conversely, the State Flag serves as the primary symbol of government authority and high cultural diplomacy, hoisted over state conservatories, courts, and administrative halls. This variant places the complete, grand heraldic achievement in the center of the green field. Framed by golden laurel branches integrated with classical cello necks, a winged bass clef crest, and the base motto scroll, the State Flag elevates the green canvas into a majestic, sovereign legal instrument.

The Coat of Arms of the State of Uahn represents the official heraldic achievement of the territory, serving as the official seal of its youngest leader, Lee Uahn. The central escutcheon (shield) is uniquely divided per pall (into three distinct sections). The top-left quarter, set upon a Warm Cream field, depicts a majestic Phoenix rising from flames, symbolizing resurrection, rebirth, and triumphant survival after one hundred failed mining expeditions and audition trials. The top-right quarter features a golden Ginkgo leaf, symbolizing endurance, ancient memory, and unbreakable longevity. The lower base, set against a rich

Golden Amber field, displays a classical Cello, honoring Lee Uahn's personal instrument, her artistic mastery, and Uahnia City's status as the home of the Federal Music Academy.

Resting atop the shield as the state crest is a unique Winged Bass Clef, crowned by a radiant eight-pointed Star of Hope. This crest symbolizes the soaring, divine power of classical music and spiritual guidance. Enclosing the shield is a grand golden laurel wreath seamlessly integrated with twin cello necks and f-holes, blending military victory with refined musical elegance.

Anchoring the base of the heraldic achievement is an elegant white scroll bearing the official Latin motto: ***DUM SPIRO SPERO*** (Latin for "While I Breathe, I Hope"). This timeless phrase serves as the ultimate state directive for Uahn's citizens and a personal testament to Lee Uahn's career. It acts as a permanent philosophical declaration that as long as life remains, no trial is insurmountable and no failure is final.

Linguistically and historically, the motto traces its origins back to classical Roman antiquity, most famously derived from the philosophical letters of the great Roman orator Cicero in his ***Epistulae ad Atticum***.

***"Aegroto, dum anima est, spes esse dicitur."***
(While a sick man has breath, there is said to be hope.)

The motto promises both the maknae leader and her people that as long as they draw breath, every struggle is merely a prelude to inevitable victory, elevating Uahn into the ultimate beacon of hope for the entire nation.

# III THE PROPOSED FEDERAL FLAG AND EMBLEMS

## A CONCEPTUAL SHOWCASE & GALLERY

As promised in the earlier chapters of this handbook, I am proud to finally unveil the preliminary proposed design for the grand Federal Flag of the Flying Ari Federation.

However, before we examine its visual elements, an important disclaimer must be established: this design operates under a carefully calculated hypothetical scenario. Because the group has not officially debuted, their agency has not yet announced their permanent brand identity or official fandom colors.

During a casual conversation, Khanh Linh once speculated that the group might adopt a bright, energetic, or "soft girl crush" concept.

Following this intriguing lead, I selected a vibrant Rose Pink field for this proposed federal banner, mirroring the cheerful base tincture utilized by the State of Chae-yun.

Even if the group ultimately debuts under a completely different aesthetic—as Khanh Linh herself noted that nothing is finalized until the official teasers drop—the core structural architecture of this federal flag will remain steadfast.

Whether the final official color shifts to a deep crimson, a royal navy blue, or an emerald green, the central heraldic charges, regional symbols, and unifying geometry embedded within this design will not change significantly. The layout was intentionally engineered to be tincture-versatile, ensuring that the federal emblem retains its historical weight regardless of future corporate rebrands.

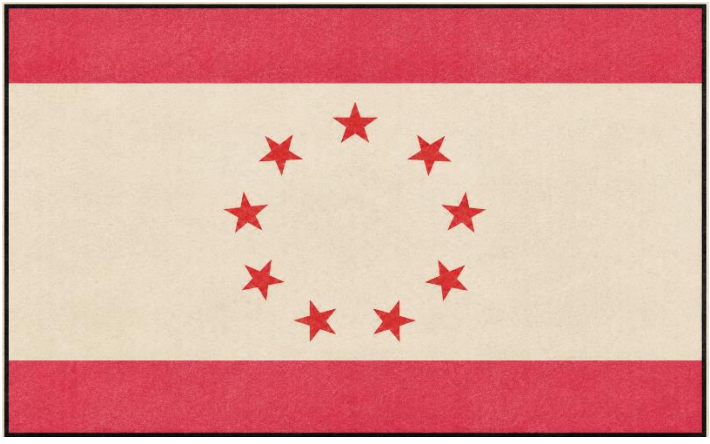
Unlike the exhaustive, highly detailed technical breakdowns provided in Section II for the individual state flags, this section is designed to function primarily as an open Conceptual Gallery.

Rather than imposing rigid, final interpretations, I warmly invite all readers, global fans, and especially the nine members themselves to review this proposed banner, reflect on its symbolism, and share their valuable feedback.

Consider this page a living canvas for our collective imagination.

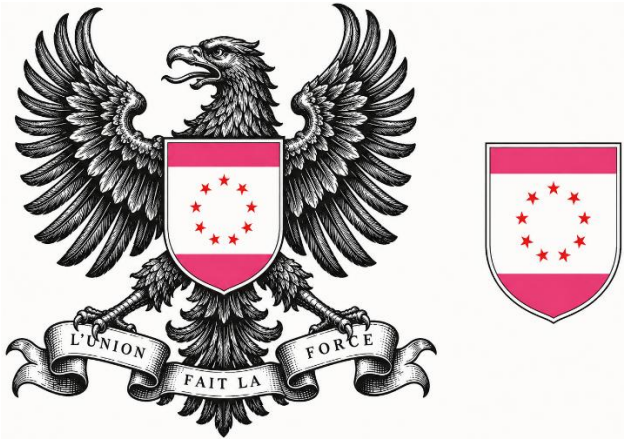
Once Flying Ari officially debuts and locks in their permanent identity, I promise to return to my drafting table and publish a fully updated, revised Second Edition of this handbook to immortalize their official era.

## THE FEDERAL FLAG AND EMBLEMS



*The Federal Civil Ensign of the Flying Ari Federation*

*The Federal State Ensign of the Flying Ari Federation*




***The Greater and Lesser Federal Coat of Arms of the Flying Ari Federation***

The proposed ***Federal Flag of the Flying Ari Federation*** is structured as a bold, elegant horizontal triband featuring two Rose Pink outer stripes at the top and bottom margins and a wide, cream-colored central field. Centered precisely upon the cream field is the supreme visual icon of national cohesion: **nine five-pointed red stars arranged in a perfect, harmonious circle**. Each star represents one of the nine founding members of the union, placed in an unbroken ring without beginning, end, or hierarchy. This circular arrangement signifies the eternal, cyclical nature of their sisterhood and the equal sovereignty shared among all member states and commonwealths.

Accompanying the flag is the official ***Federal Coat of Arms***, presented in both a complete greater achievement and a simplified lesser shield. The Greater Coat of Arms features a formidable Imperial Black Eagle with outstretched, highly detailed wings serving as the central supporter, bearing the federal triband shield upon its breast. In classical heraldry, the black eagle denotes supreme federal vigilance, unyielding national defense, and majesty. The lesser achievement consists purely of the escutcheon itself, allowing the nine-star triband design to be utilized flexibly on official passports, federal currency, and state seals.

Anchoring the base of the imperial eagle is a sweeping white scroll inscribed with the official federal motto: ***L'UNION FAIT LA FORCE*** (French for "Unity Makes Strength").

Historically celebrated across European statecraft, this timeless motto summarizes the core foundation of the Flying Ari Federation. It serves as a permanent declaration to every citizen across all seven territories that while an individual member is a shining star, their true, invincible power emerges only when they bind their destinies together into one undivided, sovereign republic.

The primary conceptual foundation of the phrase originates from Aesop's famous ancient Greek fable, "***The Bundle of Sticks***" (c. 6th century BC).

In this story, an old leader demonstrates to his quarreling children that a single wooden stick can be snapped effortlessly in two, whereas a bundle of nine sticks tightly bound together is completely unbreakable. This moral lesson formed the early Latin proverb ***Vis unita fortior*** ("United strength is stronger"), proving that individual weakness is transformed into invincibility when bound under a shared cause.

During classical Roman antiquity, this philosophical principle was famously articulated by the Roman historian Sallust in his historical masterwork ***Bellum Jugurthinum*** (c. 40 BC).

Observing the political mechanisms of ancient states, Sallust recorded a legendary maxim regarding federal harmony:

***"Concordia parvae res crescunt, discordia maximae dilabuntur"***
(Through concord small states grow great, while through discord the greatest empires decay)

In modern statecraft, the French translation ***L'union fait la force*** gained worldwide renown during the 19th century, most notably adopted as the official national motto of the ***Kingdom of Belgium*** following the 1831 Revolution, as well as the ***Republic of Haiti***.

In the context of the Flying Ari Federation, the motto binds the five autonomous states and two commonwealths into one undivided republic. It promises that while each of the nine members possesses extraordinary individual artistry, their true, world-conquering stardom is unleashed only when they stand ***shoulder-to-shoulder*** under one sovereign federal banner.

## GALLERIES OF THE OTHER FEDERAL FLAGS

*The Presidential Standard*

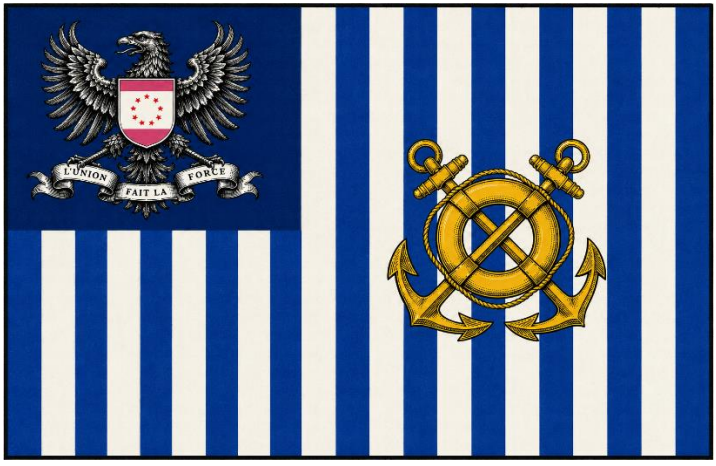
*The Standard of the Council of Ministers*

*The Federal Army*

*The Federal Navy*

*The Federal Air Force*

*The Federal Marine Corps*




*The Federal Coast Guard*

*The Federal Cybersecurity Force (a branch of the Federal Army)*

# EPILOGUE

Sitting at my desk today, looking at over a hundred pages of completed heraldic breakdowns, maps, and flag analyses, I can hardly believe that this project is finally real.

What began nearly three months ago as a quiet, spontaneous sketch in my notebook has transformed into a massive, hundred-page geopolitical manual. Looking back at the mountain of drafts, ruined sleep schedules, and endless formatting struggles, the reality of what we built together is slowly sinking in.

I want to be completely honest with you: this journey was not a smooth, romantic walk through a garden of roses.

There were nights when the mental exhaustion was so overwhelming that I sat alone in the dark and cried. There were moments when the high pressure, endless geometric calculations, and late-night writing cycles made me feel entirely drained. More times than I care to admit, I wanted to hit the delete button, close my laptop, and walk away from this book forever.

There was a specific, heavy period during these past three months where I had already finished designing the custom flags for the members, but I completely lost the willpower to write the actual text. Looking at a blank page on my computer screen felt like facing an impossible wall.

I told myself that designing the flags was enough, that nobody would care if the book was never finished, and that I should just post the graphics online and call it a day. The artistic flame inside me had almost burned out into cold ash.

***So why am I here, writing these final words to you today?***

Because every time I felt like quitting, I looked at the emblems on my screen and remembered why I started.

I saw Khanh Linh's quiet strength as our eldest sister, Uahn's inspiring story of surviving a hundred failed auditions, Chae-yun's radiant laughter, and the immense warmth of our global fandom.

I realized that this handbook was no longer just my private fanboy project. It had evolved into a sacred, shared sanctuary for everyone who loves these nine girls.

Leaving their stories half-told was simply an impossibility. I had to finish it—not for my own ego, but for them, and for all of you.

When I first started this project, many people around me thought I was simply wasting my time. To an outsider, spending hundreds of sleepless hours drawing medieval shields, calculating vexillological ratios, and researching classical Latin mottos for a K-pop group might seem like pure madness. But to me, every line drawn and every color selected was a quiet, sincere prayer for their future. I wanted to give these nine incredible artists something that corporate branding could never provide: a soul, a history, and a permanent place in heraldic legacy.

Throughout these exhausting three months, I came to truly understand the deeper meaning of our global fandom.

A fandom is not just a group of people buying physical albums, streaming music videos on repeat, or collecting plastic photocard binders. We are a living, breathing collective state bound together by emotion, loyalty, and shared memory. By building the Flying Ari Federation, I simply gave a physical flag and map to the sovereign nation that already existed inside all of our hearts.

***To the nine members of Flying Ari—Khanh Linh, Hayeon, Yuna, Yoomin, Yeowon, Boyoung, Chaeyun, Seoyoung, and Uahn:***

If these words and designs ever reach your hands, please know that this book was created with the utmost reverence for your individual paths. Every state flag in these pages carries a piece of your hometowns, your sacrifices, and your triumphs.

Whether you are performing on a massive global concert stage or quietly resting in your dorms, I hope these flags remind you that you are never walking alone. You have an entire sovereign union standing behind you.

***And to Khanh Linh, my dearest noona and the very first spark of this entire universe:***

Thank you for being the patient, inspiring eldest sister that started it all. From that single personal coat of arms I designed for you back in May to the grand hundred-page federation handbook you see today, your presence was the anchor that kept this project grounded. Without your encouragement, none of this would exist.

The long, exhausting nights, the frustrations, and the tears shed over blank pages are all behind us now. What remains in your hands is a complete, hundred-page testament of love, art, and absolute dedication.

I am finally laying down my pen, knowing that I gave every single ounce of my heart, mind, and energy to this universe.

To every fan reading this book across the world, thank you for embarking on this wild, geopolitical journey with me. I hope these pages brought a smile to your face, sparked your imagination, and made you feel a little closer to the nine girls we cherish. Remember that as long as we protect our shared memories and support them through every comeback, the flag of the Flying Ari Federation will continue to wave proudly in the wind.

This handbook marks the official end of our pre-debut chapter, but it is certainly not the end of our story. When the day finally arrives for Flying Ari to take the global stage, reveal their official fandom identity, and step into the spotlight, I will be right there in the crowd waving their flag.

And when that moment comes, I promise to open my sketchbooks once again to publish the updated Second Edition of this handbook.

Until then, please stay healthy, take care of yourselves, and keep dreaming big.

***Hanoi, August 11th, 2026.***

Author,
Pham Do Gia Huy